

MVLWB Permits

From: kevin o'reilly <kor@theedge.ca>
Sent: Sunday, May 25, 2014 10:31 PM
To: Stephen.Traynor@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca
Cc: tslack@ykdene.com; Katherine.Ross@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca; Adrian.Paradis@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca; Jane.Amphlett@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca; bslater@bslater.ca; Morag.McPherson@DFO-MPO.GC.CA; Stuart.Niven@DFO-MPO.GC.CA; krista.amey@dpra.com; Amy.Sparks@EC.gc.ca; gordon.hamre@gmail.com; Erika_Nyyssonen@gov.nt.ca; asish.mohapatra@hc-sc.gc.ca; jpotten@mvlwb.com; tyree@mvlwb.com; matt.hoover@nsma.net; Belinda.Campbell@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca; Linda.Pickett@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca; kkronstal@yellowknife.ca; jblack@ykdene.com
Subject: re: Request to Investigate Cleaning of Vehicles Involved in Giant Underground Stabilization Activities in Winter of 2013-14
Attachments: DSCN0280.JPG
Importance: High

Stephen

As discussed at the Giant Mine Working Group Meeting held on May 23, 2014, I have attached a photo I took on the old Ingraham Trail near the road block on March 30, 2014. You will see that the side of the road coming out of Giant Mine looks distinctly dirtier than the other side of the road. Below you will find the e-mail correspondence I had with GNWT where I attempted to raise the issue and get answers.

In questioning AANDC and PWGSC staff on May 23, 2014, there was no definitive or clear answer to the questions around whether all the vehicles used in the Underground Stabilization activities authorized under Water Licence MV2012L8-0010 were actually cleaned by washing before leaving the site. This is also a requirement of the approved Giant Mine Underground Stabilization Waste Management Plan (s. 2.1 Waste Types, pages 11 and 12):

13. Equipment wash water

To prevent the spread of tailings, arsenic dusts and other potentially contaminated materials around the Site and to off-site locations, equipment will be washed prior to leaving work areas on the South and Central tailings ponds. Since washing will occur within the tailings basin, the waste water generated will be directed to the existing surface drainage established to manage water in the South-Central-North Tailings Pond Complex (Section 3.0).

As I understand it, the Underground Stabilization activities continued at least until December 2013 and that further work at the site was done in 2014. I would hope that proper procedures and checks are put in place to ensure that any future vehicles involved in Underground Stabilization activities are properly cleaned by washing before leaving the site.

I look forward to detailed answers from AANDC about the proper washing of all vehicles involved in the Underground Stabilization work, where this was done (particularly in the winter period when there were below zero temperatures) and whether there are any records that clearly indicate that the vehicles were actually washed. In the meantime, I ask the AANDC inspector for Water Licence MV2012L8-0010 investigate this

matter and report back to Alternatives North and the general public. Thanks.

Kevin O'Reilly
Alternatives North

----- Original Message -----

From: "Larry G. Purcka" <Larry_Purcka@gov.nt.ca>

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 14:43

Subject: RE: RE: re: Old Ingraham Trail Near Giant Mine--Confirmation of E-mail Received

To: kevin o'reilly <kor@theedge.ca>

> Kevin,

>

> We have no idea as to why there appears to be more dirt on the old Ingraham Trail in the area of the Boat Launch area other than that there was not the same level of maintenance over the winter. As this section of the road was not open to the public, it may not have been graded to the pavement or it may not have been graded full width. Also, I don't think material was tracked onto this section of the roadway from within the Giant Mine site nor do I think that material has fallen out of the gravel boxes/trucks as they left the Giant Mine site.

>

> I have confidence that AANDC is strictly monitoring its operations on site and that they are not allowing any deleterious substances from being tracked outside their remediation area.

>

> Sorry that I can't help further with this matter. Sincerely,

>

> **Larry G Purcka**

> Program Manager

> Highways & Marine Division

> Department of Transportation

> Government of the Northwest Territories

> 2nd Floor Highways Bldg. | 4510 Franklin Avenue

> P.O. Box 1320 | Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

> **Tel:** 1-867-873-7647 | **Cell:** 1-867-765-8412 | **Fax:** 1-867-873-0288

> **Email:** Larry_Purcka@gov.nt.ca

> **Website:** www.dot.gov.nt.ca

>



>

> **This e-mail and all attachments to it are confidential and is intended solely for the person to whom it is addressed.**

> **If you have received this message in error, please delete it and any and all attachments to it and notify me immediately by replying to sender.**

>

> **From:** kevin o'reilly [mailto:kor@theedge.ca]

> **Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2014 10:15 PM

> **To:** Larry G. Purcka

> **Subject:** Re: RE: re: Old Ingraham Trail Near Giant Mine--Confirmation of E-mail Received

>

> Larry

>

> I'm working my way through some old e-mails and do not recall seeing a reply to this one. Did you have a chance to consider why the side of the road coming out of the Giant Mine appears to have more dirt on it? Thanks.

>

> Kevin O'Reilly

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: kevin o'reilly <kor@theedge.ca>

> Date: Thursday, April 17, 2014 13:47

> Subject: Re: RE: re: Old Ingraham Trail Near Giant Mine--Confirmation of E-mail Received

> To: "Larry G. Purcka" <Larry_Purcka@gov.nt.ca>

>

>> Thanks Larry. I appreciate the response and I will pass that along to Cristine Bayley. I'm still not sure what is happening with the "dirty" part of the old highway coming out of the Giant Mine as mentioned in my original e-mail. Any thoughts about what is going on there?

>>

>> Kevin

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: "Larry G. Purcka" <Larry_Purcka@gov.nt.ca>

>> Date: Thursday, April 17, 2014 12:17

>> Subject: RE: re: Old Ingraham Trail Near Giant Mine--Confirmation of E-mail Received

>> To: kevin o'reilly <kor@theedge.ca>

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>>

>>> Good afternoon Kevin,

>>>

>>> Yes I did receive the email and did look at the road in early April and had the opportunity to discuss this with our highway operations manager. The white staining appears to be from the salt that is mixed in with the sand. The Department uses up to 5% salt with our sand so that it has some melting effect at temperatures above -18° cel. The sandy material that did stick on to the vehicle is the result of the melting ice and snow mixing in with the sand/salt mixture making a sticky slushy sand/salt/snow mixture. Normally, this material is worn off by the heavy truck traffic and grading operations each winter haul period. With the opening of the new alignment, the traffic was no longer there to wear away at the sand/salt mixture, resulting in residual salt and sand/salt remaining on the road into the warmer period of late winter. There is nothing to be concerned with as this is normal. Going forward, there will be less sand/salt placed onto the road and road users will not experience the same level of slushy sand/salt mixtures nor see as much staining on the road.

>>>

>>> I hope that this will satisfy your concerns.

>>>

>>> **Larry G Purcka**

>>> Program Manager

>>> Highways & Marine Division

>>> Department of Transportation

>>> Government of the Northwest Territories

>>> 2nd Floor Highways Bldg. | 4510 Franklin Avenue

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>>> **Tel:** 1-867-873-7647 | **Cell:** 1-867-765-8412 | **Fax:** 1-867-873-0288

>>> **Email:** Larry_Purcka@gov.nt.ca

>>> **Website:** www.dot.gov.nt.ca

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>>> **If you have received this message in error, please delete it and any and all attachments to it and notify me immediately by replying to sender.**

>>>
>>> **From:** kevin o'reilly [<mailto:kor@theedge.ca>]
>>> **Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2014 11:50 AM
>>> **To:** Larry G. Purcka
>>> **Cc:** cristine_57@hotmail.com
>>> **Subject:** Fwd: re: Old Ingraham Trail Near Giant Mine--Confirmation of E-mail Received
>>> **Importance:** High

>>>
>>>> Larry
>>>>
>>>> I just wanted to confirm that you got the e-mail below that I sent a couple of weeks ago with some photos. Please acknowledge receipt. Thanks.

>>>
>>>> Kevin O'Reilly
>>>>
>>>> ----- Original Message -----
>>>> From: kevin o'reilly <kor@theedge.ca>
>>>> Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2014 22:25
>>>> Subject: re: Old Ingraham Trail Near Giant Mine
>>>> To: Larry_Purcka@gov.nt.ca
>>>> Cc: cristine_57@hotmail.com

>>>>
>>>>> Larry
>>>>>
>>>>> We spoke briefly on the phone on Friday about a concern from a resident about residue on her vehicle from the old Ingraham Trail near Giant Mine. Cristine Bayley sent me the two attached photos of the residue on her vehicle and I have copied her on this e-mail.
>>>>>
>>>>> I finally got out there on Sunday morning myself and noticed that the road past the turnoff for the dump has a white salt-like residue on the stretch at the top of the hill going down to Giant (see attached photo DSCN0267). As I got closer to the Giant road block I noticed that the side of the road coming out of the mine has a "dirty" look to it (see attached photo DSCN0280).
>>>>>
>>>>> I'm not saying anything has happened on that stretch of the road but it does look rather unusual. I wonder whether there may have been something spilled on the road at the top of the hill or would that simply be a lot of salt that was applied? Would salt cause the residue on Cristine's vehicle? She says she has never seen anything like that before.

>>>>>

>>>> The brown "dirty" part of the road coming out of Giant makes me wonder what may be coming out of the site. There was work going on there where tailings were being mixed with cement for placement underground. I'm not sure what procedures were in place for cleaning off any equipment or vehicles involved in those operations but wonder whether some of it may have been deposited by traffic coming out of the property.

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>>>> I know how conscientious you are about highways and thought you would look into it and give us some helpful responses. Thanks.

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>>>> Kevin O'Reilly

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