



Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
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Staff Report

Applicant: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada – Giant Mine Directorate	
Location: Giant Mine	Application: MV2007L8-0031/N1L2-0043
Date Prepared: May 31, 2011	Meeting Date: June 9, 2011
Subject: Update on Tailings Flood	

1. Purpose/Report Summary

To provide the Board with an update about the tailings flood at Baker Creek and the subsequent Inspector Direction issued on May 30, 2011.

2. Background

- October 19, 2007 – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) submitted a new type A water licence to conduct closure and reclamation activities at the Giant Mine site;
- February 21, 2008 - the Board made a preliminary screening decision not to refer the proposed project to environmental assessment;
- March 31, 2008 – the City of Yellowknife referred the project to environmental assessment;
- October 27, 2010 – INAC submitted the Developer’s Assessment Report (DAR) to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB);
- December 21, 2010 – MVEIRB determined that the DAR was in conformity with the Terms of Reference, and the proposed project is currently in the Information Request phase of the environmental assessment process;
- May 14, 2011 – tailings area became flooded when an ice dam formed on nearby Baker Creek;
- May 30, 2011 – Inspector issued an Inspector Direction under paragraph 37(1)(b) of the *Northwest Territories Waters Act* to permanently mitigate the historic tailings in Baker Pond; and
- June 9, 2011 – update presented to Board.

3. Discussion

On May 14, 2011, the tailings area was flooded when an ice dam formed on nearby Baker Creek. The dammed creek flooded its banks and washed over the tailings. The water flushed through the tailings and flowed back into Baker Creek, which flows into Great Slave Lake.

On May 30, 2011, the Inspector issued an Inspector Direction directing the Giant Mine Directorate to permanently mitigate the historic tailings in Baker Pond (Jo Jo Lake) to eliminate the potential adverse affects (see attached Inspector Direction).

INAC, Public Works and Services, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Environment Canada have been working together to address the issue, and sampling has been conducted. If water sampling results are available, they will be presented to the Board at the meeting.

4. Comments

n/a

5. Review Comments

n/a

6. Security

n/a

7. Conclusion

Board staff will continue to keep the Board apprised of the activities happening at Giant Mine.

8. Recommendation

n/a

9. Attachments

- Inspector Direction issued on May 30, 2011; and
- Map of the Giant Mine site.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Plautz
Regulatory Policy Advisor