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### Staff Report

<b>Applicant:</b> Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – Giant Mine Remediation Project	
<b>Location:</b> Giant Mine – Yellowknife, NT	<b>File Number(s):</b> MV2016S0016 MV2017L8-0006 MV2017X0030
<b>Date Prepared:</b> September 22, 2021	<b>Date of Board Meeting:</b> October 7, 2021
<b>Subject:</b> Giant Mine Remediation Project –Discontinuance, Final Clearances, and Water Licence Cancellation	

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to present to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB/the Board) Final Plans submitted by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) – Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP) for Land Use Permits MV2016S0016 (Final Clearance) and MV2017X0030 (Discontinuance and Final Clearance) as well as a Cancellation Request for Water Licence MV2017L8-0006, and a recommendation for Final Clearance from the Land Use Inspector.

#### 2. Background

- July 21, 2016 – Issuance of Permit MV2016S0016;
- September 28, 2017 – Issuance of Permit MV2017X0030 and Licence MV2017L8-0006;
- July 16, 2021 – Final Plans for Permits MV2016S0016 and MV2017X0030 and Cancellation Request for Licence MV2017L8-0006 submitted to the Board;
- July 20, 2021 – Expiration of Permit MV2016S0016
- August 16, 2021 – Final Plans and Cancellation Request distributed for review and comment;
- September 7, 2021 – Comments and recommendations due and received;
- September 7, 2021 – Responses due and received;
- **October 7, 2021 – Final Plans and Cancellation Request presented to the Board for decision; and**
- September 27, 2022 – expiry of Permit MV2017X0030; and
- September 27, 2024 – expiry of Licence MV2017L8-0006.

### **3. Discussion**

#### **Project History**

Several authorizations were issued to the Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP) while it underwent Environmental Assessment and activities intended to meet the Measures of EA0102-01. These authorizations were largely intended to allow the Project to carry out site stabilization activities and undertake geotechnical exploration activities to better inform the Project's closure activities.

The scope of Land Use Permit MV2016S0016 included a land-based drilling program at the Giant Mine site in Yellowknife, NT. Its purpose was to optimize remediation plans and designs, and provide additional information to mitigate emergencies (i.e. flooding and underground stability) through drillings and soil testing. The activities included drilling using a mud rotary drill, diamond drill and down-the-hole drilling methodologies, auguring, excavating soil test pits, and associated activities for four programs (Freeze optimization study, design support drilling and soil testing, A1, A2, B1, B4, and C1 pit stability, and underground stability).

The scope of Land Use Permit MV2017X0030 and Water Licence MV2017L8-0006 included repair of the Upper Baker Creek Bridge, which was constructed in 2007 and was used to support care and maintenance activities at the site.

#### **Description of Final Plans and Cancellation Request**

The Final Plans and Request for Cancellation were submitted on July 16, 2021 (attached). All activities covered by these authorizations that are still required to support the Giant Mine Remediation Project have been covered by Type A Land Use Permit MV2019X0007 and Type A Water Licence MV2007L8-0031.

### **4. Public Review**

Final Plans are not distributed for review. On August 12, 2021, a GNWT-Lands Inspector verified the Final Plans contained all required information and recommended final closure of Permits MV2016S0016 and MV2017X0030 (attached).

By September 7, 2021, comments and recommendations on the Cancellation Request were received from two Parties:

- CIRNAC-Inspector; and
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

Both the Inspector and ECCC support the request to cancel Licence MV2017L8-0006. On August 12, 2021, the CIRNAC-Inspector provided the following in its response to Board staff's notification of the request:

*All of the work under these authorizations has been included and will continue under the recently issued Land Use Permit MV2019X0007 and Water Licence MV2007L8-0031. Therefore in accordance with section 33 of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations the*

*undersigned Inspector recommends that the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board issue a letter of clearance to the Permittee for both MV2016S0016 and MV2017X0030. The Inspector also agrees and supports the discontinuance of licence MV2017L8-0006.*

## **5. Security**

There are no securities associated with this Licence.

## **6. Conclusion**

Staff conclude that there are no outstanding issues or concerns with respect to granting final clearance or discontinuance of these Permits or to cancelling the Licence.

## **7. Recommendation**

Board staff recommend the Board:

- a) **Make a motion approve the final plan as required and grant final clearance for Land Use Permit MV2016S0016.**
- b) **Make a motion approve the final plan as required and grant discontinuance and final clearance for Land Use Permit MV2017X0030.**
- c) **Make a motion cancel Water Licence MV2017L8-0006.**

Draft letters are attached.

## **8. Attachments**

- [Registry page for MV2016S0016](#)
- [Registry page for MV2017X0030](#)
- [Registry page for MV2017L8-0006](#)
- [Cancellation Request for MV2017L8-0006 and Final Plans for MV2016S0016 and MV2017X0030](#)
- [CIRNAC-Inspector's Recommendations](#)
- Review Comment Table
- Draft Decision Letters

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Allerston  
Regulatory Specialist