

Ms. Natalie Plato

Deputy Director

Giant Mine Remediation Project

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)

December 4, 2018

2017-2018 Annual Report of the Giant Mine Remediation Project

Natalie;

The Giant Mine Oversight Body acknowledges receipt of the 2017-2018 Annual Report of the Giant Mine Remediation Project on November 2, 2018.

The submitted report meets the major requirements of the Environmental Agreement. However, as GMOB stated last year the report does not adequately enable the reader to quickly assess how the Project is progressing within the scope of the overall remediation schedule, management milestones and past, present and future budgets.

GMOB does note that the level of detail in the report should be helpful to assist the project in analysing trends, and that the inclusion of the plain language summary is an improvement from the tables provided for 2016-17. We recommend, however, that in future iterations of the report, the Project produce the plain language summary as a stand-alone document.

GMOB has two comments regarding the future format of the annual report which we feel would assist in more clearly communicating the progress of the Project:


1. All the tables for activities, completed and planned, should be presented in sequence (Pages 8-11 and Pages 78-79). This would assist the reader in understanding the project's path over a five-year period.
2. The budget and expenditure figures should be presented in the same manner as explained above i.e. past expenditures next to planned and future budgets.

Below are highlights of a few issues identified in our review:

1. There are a number of documents listed in the report as “in draft” or “in progress”. These include the Performance Measurement Indicators, Socio-Economics Benefit Strategy, Measure 6 Report, Traditional Land Use Study, and the Water Quality Model. The Project Team provided verbal updates on the status of these at the recent GMOB – GMRPT meeting and we look forward to receiving the final versions.
2. GMOB notes that in the annual report it states that a draft Socio-Economic Strategy (page 17) was released in 2016-17. However, it was communicated at the November meeting that this was only a “consultation” on what the socio-economic approach would be. This report reference should be corrected.
3. Under Key Stakeholder Concerns (pages 64 -65), the Project should determine ways to systematically collect, quantify, and qualify this information. As presented, it is difficult to get a sense of the weight that these carry with the individual stakeholders.
4. The Procurement and Employment data (pages 66-69) reports that only 4% of employees are Indigenous and only 20% are Northern. These are both under-represented when considering the demographics of the region. This important issue will need to be tracked in the coming reports as a measurable performance indicator.
5. We would like to see a more inclusive listing of employment by the Project, specifically of how many people were directly employed by the Project Team in Yellowknife, Ottawa and elsewhere, as well as details of consultants and contracting authority employees. As the figures are currently presented, we assume that the information relates only to those employed by the Main Construction Manager.

GMOB was briefed verbally on the future year macro budget figures at our November meeting. Once the post FCSAP 2020 source of funding is confirmed, we would appreciate receiving the final budget details in writing.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathleen Racher
Chair, Giant Mine Oversight Board

cc. Parties to the Environmental Agreement