

GIANT MINE Oversight Board



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Honourable Dan Vandal
Minister of Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

May 19, 2020

Giant Mine Oversight Board Annual Report 2019

Hon. Dan Vandal:

Pursuant to the Giant Mine Remediation Project Environmental Agreement and on behalf of the Giant Mine Oversight Board, I am pleased to submit the Board's fourth annual report.

The Giant Mine Oversight Board (GMOB) was created as a result of the Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision: Giant Mine Remediation Project, EA 0809-001 (June 20, 2013) and the subsequent Giant Mine Remediation Project Environmental Agreement signed on June 9, 2015 by the Government of Canada (Minister for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada), the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Métis Alliance, Alternatives North, and the City of Yellowknife.

Included in the attached report are four new recommendations that address issues GMOB feels must be resolved to ensure the effective remediation of the Giant Mine site in a manner that will ensure project efficiency and benefit local residents. We have also reported progress and presented updates on past recommendations within the full report.

A summary of the new recommendations is listed below. The Annual Report provides the full context for each of these.

New Recommendations:

1. Directed to: Minister, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)

We recommend the CIRNAC Minister appoint a special envoy to work with federal, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous agencies and the Parties to develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated economic strategy. The strategy should identify and

capture the Project economic, social, and educational opportunities and help deal with community health concerns and reconciliation efforts.

2. Directed to: Minister CIRNAC

GMOB recommends that the CIRNAC Minister develop legislation to guarantee long-term funding for the Giant Mine remediation and maintenance. Residents need to know that there will be guaranteed funding, independent of changes in government and policy.

3. Directed to: Minister and Deputy Minister, CIRNAC; Minister and Deputy Minister, ENR; City of Yellowknife; YKDFN; NSMA.

GMOB recommends that by 2025 the federal, territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments jointly develop and approve a land use plan for the Giant Mine site post-remediation. In addition to addressing post-remediation uses of the site, the land use plan should incorporate related aspects of the long-term care plan.

4. Directed to: Project Team

GMOB recommends that the Project Team factor into its plans and activities any associated greenhouse gas emissions.

- Where feasible, the Project Team should choose options that generate the lowest emissions.
- Where this is not feasible, the Project Team should investigate and implement greenhouse offsets.
- The Project Team should conduct a baseline energy use and greenhouse gas emissions audit. It should annually document and report its greenhouse gas emissions and offset against the baseline.

On behalf of the Giant Mine Oversight Board, I thank you for your consideration of the recommendations contained in the Report and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathleen Racher
Chair, Giant Mine Oversight Board

Attachment

Cc. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories
Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
Parties to the Giant Mine Oversight Body Society
Directors, Giant Mine Oversight Board