

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

June 4, 2021

Giant Mine Oversight Board Annual Report 2020

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 fifth 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 seven 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:

Environment

1. Directed to: The Project Team

GMOB recommends that the Project Team develop a short and long term strategy that sets targets and commits to action to proactively reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Socio-Economic

2. Directed to: The Project Team

GMOB recommends that the Project Team use the findings of GMOB's independent review to improve outcomes and reporting on its Socio-Economic Strategy, 2016-2021, as well as strategy renewals and updates.

3. Directed to: The Socio-Economic Working Group.

GMOB recommends that The Socio-Economic Working Group bring forth socio-economic considerations identified in the Perpetual Care Plan framework into the goals of the Perpetual Care Plan.

4. Directed to: The Project Team

GMOB recommends that one of the goals of the Perpetual Care Plan be to ensure that northerners have central roles in the care, maintenance, and management of the Giant Mine site into the future.

Engagement

5. Directed to: The Project Team

To improve oversight of public engagement and communications, GMOB recommends that the Project Team identify indicators to enable the effectiveness of these activities to be measured.

6. Directed to: The City of Yellowknife

GMOB welcomes the City of Yellowknife's Giant Mine webpage. Ongoing updates and improvements will be needed to keep pace with upcoming remediation activities. GMOB recommends that the City make the webpage interactive to enable Yellowknife residents to provide their input on the Project. This will enhance the information that the City brings forth to Project-related processes.

Community Health and Wellness

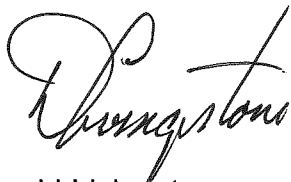
7. Directed to: The Project Team

GMOB recommends that the Project Team continue to improve engagement and communications activities to ensure that local people:

- a) Are not experiencing unnecessary stress or fear due to dust coming off the Giant Mine site, and
- b) Understand the three main types of site remediation standards - residential, industrial and untouched - and how they apply to the site.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Livingstone".

David Livingstone
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 Environmental Agreement
Directors, Giant Mine Oversight Board