

GIANT MINE REMEDICATION PROJECT

David Livingstone
Chair, Giant Mine Oversight Board
Box 1602, 5014-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2P2
livingstone21@hotmail.com

November 3, 2021
Submitted via email attachment

Dear Mr. Livingstone:

Thank you for sending us the report *Strengthening Socio-Economic Impact Reporting and Analysis for the Giant Mine Remediation Project*, formally approved by Giant Mine Oversight Board (GMOB) in June 2021. The Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP) appreciates GMOB's interests and recommendations in this area. We have structured our responses around the report's recommendations.

1. The GMRP should develop a separate annual socio-economic report that would provide Key Performance Indicators (KPI) results, provide progress on the Socio-Economic Strategy work plan and any adjustments made to the work plan using an adaptive management approach.

Response: As part of the Environmental Agreement, the GMRP is required to provide an Annual Report to the Giant Mine Oversight Board of Project's key activities and performance throughout each fiscal year, this includes socio-economic reporting. Since releasing the Socio-Economic Strategy to the public, and every iteration of the report that followed, GMRP expanded the socio-economic section within the Annual Report. The Report now includes information you have suggested, including:

- Socio-economic KPI results, where available;
- The 2020-21 fiscal year report includes a summary of progress on the Socio-Economic Strategy Implementation Plan and adjustments made to the work. As mentioned, this reporting and the evergreen nature of the Socio-Economic Implementation Plan, allows for adaptive management; and
- The 2020-21 report also includes results against established targets, the first time this information is being reported on in an Annual Report.

2. The GMRP should strengthen socio-economic results reporting to provide more extensive analysis and explanation on what the results indicate and an assessment of areas for improvement, as necessary.

Response: The GMRP has expanded and enhanced the socio-economic section of the Annual Report since 2018, drawing on previous GMOB recommendations, continued advancement of GMRP's socio-economic activities, and good reporting practices. As described above, the 2020-21 report includes performance against targets, which provides increased analysis and explanations on what the results indicate. CIRNAC is also undertaking an initiative to provide historical and current statistics for public access at any given time through a website portal. The GMRP will continue to work to enhance these explanations in future reports.

GIANT MINE REMEDICATION PROJECT

3. The GMRP should provide a clear definition of the scope of the remediation project being monitored as part of the Socio-Economic Strategy and are therefore included in subsequent reporting on direct project impacts.

Response: The GMRP is undertaking a review and is planning to update the Socio-Economic Strategy in 2022, in collaboration with the Socio-Economic Working Group and the Socio-Economic Advisory Body – estimated date of completion is Spring 2022. While we feel the existing SE Strategy defines the scope of the remediation project being monitored, we will gather additional insight and guidance from the Socio-Economic Working Group and Advisory Body to ensure the scope of monitoring is as clear as possible in the updated version.

4. The GMRP should develop and make available a data dictionary that would define all appropriate terms that would be incorporated into data collection, analysis, and reporting activities.

Response: The Project's Quarterly Reporting Template includes a glossary, which Northern Contaminated Sites Program uses to track sub-contractor performance for all the Federal sites in its care. However, this Reporting Template is shared only with sub-contractors who work on the site by the Main Construction Manager. The online data portal, currently under development (and referenced in Response #2), will include definitions of each KPI.

5. The GMRP should review KPIs as part of renewing the Socio-Economic Strategy for potential improvements such as more detail on the kind of training being provided (e.g., orientation and safety versus skill development).

Response: There is a core set of KPIs that are required to be used under the Northern Contaminated Sites Program; these KPIs will not change unless directed by the Program. In 2018 and 2019, GMRP, in partnership with rights and stakeholders, reviewed and augmented the KPIs to track additional performance areas (e.g., % of employees who are NWT residents). The project does not anticipate the KPIs will change substantially, since it is important to maintain a degree of consistency to track trends over time. However, the 2022 review and update of the Socio-Economic Strategy may generate new ideas for KPIs for consideration by the Project.

In addition, the Annual Report includes a range of useful data and information, including a detailed breakdown of training person hours (safety training versus skills development) in line with GMOB's suggestion.

6. The GMRP should examine approaches to including measures that monitor indirect impacts of the remediation project.

Response: The GNWT has a mandate to monitor the NWT economy and community well-being. In 2020-21, the Project engaged with GNWT Health and Social Services (H&SS) to discuss social impacts and social impact monitoring. The Project has not initiated monitoring of indirect impacts, but will continue to engage with GNWT H&SS to discuss whether and how the Territory will advance monitoring of indirect impacts. This collaborative approach will enable us to leverage existing data and information, identify opportunities to strengthen territorial monitoring, respect departmental mandates, and minimize duplication of effort.

GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

7. The GMRP should take steps to prepare and make available a comprehensive data set that provides all information on the KPIs for stakeholders to be able to access and use within their own organizations.

Response: As per our responses to Recommendations #2 & #4, the Project is currently creating a web-based data portal on CIRNA's website to display historical and current project statistics, organized by KPIs. We expect this portal will be available at some point during Q4 of 2021-22 and anticipate this will address the spirit and intent of this question.

8. The GMRP should support more detailed analysis and research into monitoring results for socio-economic impacts to better understand underlying trends or issues that may be impacting overall project performance.

Response: This recommendation is linked to Recommendation #2; please see the Project's response to Recommendation #2.

9. As part of the renewal of the Socio-Economic Strategy, the GMRP should review the goals described in the strategy and strengthen the linkage between the goals, the action plan and the KPIs.

Response: The original Socio-Economic Strategy included a high-level action plan. Since the Strategy's release, the Project has set targets, developed new KPIs, as well as a detailed evergreen Implementation Plan - originally developed in Feb 2020. The Strategy update will include a link between the Implementation Plan, Targets, and new KPIs, which will help address this recommendation. It will also include other advancements, including Social Impact Management research and reference to the recently signed Community Benefits Agreement with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

10. As part of socio-economic monitoring, the GMRP and its proponents should consider reporting on broader actions and results that support the socio-economic goals.

Response: This recommendation is linked to Recommendations #1 and #2, please see our responses to Recommendation #1 and #2. The 2020-21 Annual Report includes additional information on socio-economic activities completed in the reporting year (i.e., activities identified in the Socio-Economic Implementation Plan). The Project plans to use this approach going forward.

11. The GMRP should evolve its socio-economic monitoring program to focus on detailed annual reporting and limit quarterly reporting to activities and reporting on implementation of the action plan.

Response: This is consistent with the Project's current practice. The GMRP reports on KPIs annually via the Annual Report. The Main Construction Manager (Parsons) collects KPI data from sub-contractors monthly, rolls it up quarterly and then submits a final report to CIRNA at the end of each year. This information is integrated into the Annual Report, which provides detailed reporting on all of the KPIs.

GIANT MINE REMEDICATION PROJECT

12. The GMRP should engage further with the YKDFN and the NSMA to develop approaches to better understand the socio-economic impacts on their respective memberships than what may be able to be detected in reporting data on direct and indirect project impacts.

Response: The GMRP engages regularly with YKDFN, NSMA and Tłıchq through the established socio-economic governance structure (i.e., Socio-Economic Advisory Board and Socio-Economic Working Group). In addition, GMRP engages with all three proponents bilaterally on a variety of GMRP topics, including socio-economics. In early 2021, GMRP held focus sessions with YKDFN and NSMA to tailor proposed Socio-Economic Implementation Plan actions to the needs of the communities and better address the concerns of their respective memberships. One outcome of this engagement was the recommendation for GMRP to adapt its reporting template to include an option for individuals to self-identify their community of origin or the First Nation that they belong to; the Project is looking at ways to implement this change.

The team looks forward to continuing to work with GMOB to improve GMRP's socio-economic approaches and are open to additional suggestions going forward.

Sincerely,



Natalie Plato
Deputy Director, Giant Mine Remediation Project

CC: Giant Mine Oversight Board members, Government of the Northwest Territories-Environment and Natural Resources and the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team-CIRNAC