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August 10, 1979

The Editor,
News of the North,
P.O. Box 68,
YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories.

Gentlemen:

Re: Your Article August 8th Entitled
"Giant Has Proposal to Recycle Arsenic"

There are two points alleged in this article that we wish to correct, namely:

i) "The proposed plant would take the poisonous by-product, arsenic trioxide, and change it into a form suitable for commercial use. At present the arsenic is not useable and high amounts are escaping into Baker Creek."

The second sentence leaves one with the impression that the arsenic trioxide at present is dumped into Baker Creek. This is not correct. All but a very small amount is stored underground in hermetically sealed chambers. A residue from the Carbon Plant containing some soluble arsenic is treated with lime and then pumped to the tailings pond.

ii) "Giant has avoided the restrictions..."

Giant has spent many thousands of dollars alone and together with Environment Canada trying to develop a method of economically removing the soluble arsenic from the tailings effluent in order to meet the standards of the Water Licence. This Company has never avoided any problem but has met it head on. Today we are confident that with two methods - an electro-chemical process that is so new that we have signed a secrecy agreement in order to be permitted to use it; and the hot water leach process that we are presently testing - that we will effectively meet the final requirements of the Water Licence before 1981.

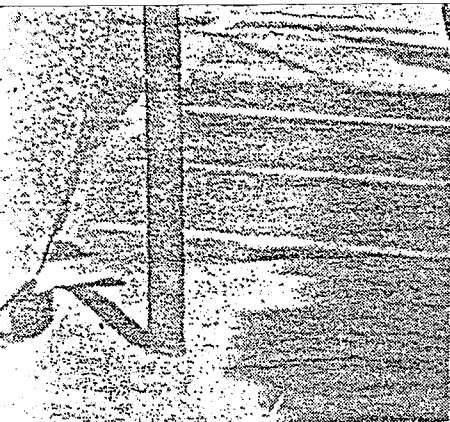
If that is avoiding the problem, then your paper is either ignorant of the actual situation or avoiding the issue in order to put this Company in a bad light.

Yours very truly,

WAM:jc

b.c.c. D.J. Emery/K.S. Morton

W. A. Moore
General Manager



...ning around
...ians could have beheld this arresting sight
...the streets drawing attention to the official
...the Bellanca Building. In real life she's Bren-

ther campers

If a bear is causing a lot of trouble the wildlife officers will either 'live-trap' it and move it to another area or destroy it, Bourque said. Most bears can be dealt with just by moving them but last year one had to be destroyed, he added.

"Whether a bear becomes a constant pest depends on the degree of human contact, it's had."

Canoers and hikers rarely have problems, he added, because they are more tuned in with the wilderness and take more precautions than campers who go out just on weekends.

"People must realize when they are 60 miles out of Yellowknife they are in the wilderness."

A bear could come along at any time, he said.

"This is the chance you take when you're camping."

Man drowns

The body of Gilbert William Nazon, 29, of Arctic Red River was recovered from the Arctic Red River Saturday afternoon.

Witnesses said Nazon had been seen to fall from his boat on June 6 while trying to restart his motor, according to RCMP in Fort McPherson.

The body was discovered when it floated to the surface of the river near the Arctic Red River ferry landing. Previous attempts to recover the body had been unsuccessful because of the deep, muddy water, according to RCMP.

territorial parks and environmental protection,

- creation of a mines and petroleum resources division within the department of economic development,

- the eventual formation of a justice department, separate from the department of public services,

- the splitting of the finance department into two entities to handle treasury affairs and mat-

Giant has proposal to recycle arsenic

By JEFF TITTERINGTON
Plans by Giant Mines in Yellowknife to install an arsenic upgrading plant should help the mining company reduce levels of arsenic contamination by 1981, according to department of Indian and Northern Affairs (DINA) spokesman.

The proposed plant would take the poisonous by-product arsenic trioxide and change it into a form suitable for commercial use. At present, the arsenic is not usable, and high amounts are escaping into Baker Creek near Giant.

According to figures supplied by DINA, the average concentration of the escaping arsenic in 1978 was 20.98 mg/l, a figure which is below the present allowable maximum of 30 mg/l.

Figures for 1979 are even better at 11.46 mg/l. However, this figure is based on only two months, while the 1978 figures come from seven months of monitoring.

In order to meet DINA licensing requirements, the mine will have to reduce these concentrations to 5mg/l by April 30, 1981. This figure is one which all new mines are required to meet.

Giant has avoided the restriction because it was a working mine at the time the new regulations came into effect.

"Essentially, Giant was told 'Go ahead as you are,'" said Lorne Cooper of the water resources division of DINA.

"The intent was to say 'Ok, you have a problem. You have until 1981 to solve it.'"

According to a letter from Giant which is circulating among concerned officials, the recovery system has been bench tested successfully.

"If the process is as successful as the lab tests, it would reduce the amount of arsenic in the environment considerably," said Bob Hale, regional manager of the water division.

"I believe Giant is negotiating with a firm in the United States to

buy the arsenic, and they may be discussing using Con's arsenic as well."

The proposed establishment of renewable and non-renewable resources departments and a department of ~~ice~~, if carried out, will prepare those departments for the eventual transfer of responsibility from the federal government.

Responsibility for most functions within the areas of renewable resources, mines and petroleum and justice now rest with the federal government.

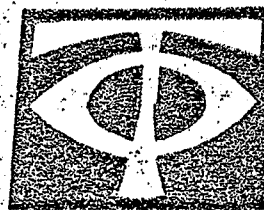
which makes in-house reports to the commissioner, should make an investigative arm of the executive committee, the report says.

The clerk's office, now responsible to the commissioner, should also be made accountable to the executive committee through the elected Speaker of the house, the report says.

The report was done by Larry Elkin, director of local government, NWT director of finance Erik Nielsen, Baffin regional director Mike Moore and director of planning and program evaluation Ray Creery.

Parker said he places "a great deal of importance" on the report, but adds it is considered to be an internal working paper subject to change during implementation.

The report in its entirety will not be made public, Parker said, because it is an "in-house" document.



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