

MINUTES OF MEETING

Royal Oak Giant Yellowknife Mine Atmospheric Emissions Minister's Meeting with local stakeholder representatives - 28 November 1994

In attendance:

Silas Arngna'naaq, Minister of Renewable Resources	Tony Whitford, MLA
Joe Handley, Deputy Minister, Ren. Res.	Brian Lewis, MLA
Bob M ^o Leod, Asst. Deputy Minister, Ren. Res.	Charles Dent, MLA
Emery Paquin, Director of Env. Prot., Ren. Res.	Dave Lovell, Mayor, City of Yellowknife
Jim Sparling, Air Quality Specialist, Ren. Res.	Alice Hill, Yellowknife Dene Band
Kevin Weston, General Manager, Royal Oak	Dave M ^o Kenna, DFO
David Anthony, Environmental Mgr., Royal Oak	Laura Johnson, Environment Canada
Christine Tanner, Executive Assistant, Ren. Res.	John Witterman, DIAND
Frank Hamilton, Mack. Regional Health	Ranjit Sonniassy, DIAND
Dr. Andre Corriveau, Mack. Regional Health	Howard Madill, DIAND
Michael Cunningham, GNWT EM&PR	

The meeting was convened at the request of Silas Arngna'naaq to provide participants with information about Renewable Resources' activities with regard to air pollutants released by Royal Oak's Giant Yellowknife Mine and to solicit comments.

Renewable Resources provided a presentation on studies conducted by the Department, levels of arsenic and sulphur dioxide measured, regulatory and physical control options and current activities. It was pointed out that vegetation damage observed in the vicinity of the mine has been attributed to sulphur dioxide but that arsenic emission rates are lower now than during the early and mid 80's. According to an assessment by the Department of Health, present air pollution levels do not present an unacceptable risk to human health.

Following the presentation, participants noted that arsenic and sulphur dioxide emissions from the Giant roaster stack have been a concern of Yellowknife residents for many decades. There was discomfort about the levels of air pollution in Yellowknife and there was general agreement that efforts should be made to improve air quality. Health representatives commented that they would be concerned if there were increases in pollution levels now being experienced. There was agreement however, that it is valuable to have the information available when dealing with those concerns.

Economic considerations influence solutions to the problem. It was felt that increasing dispersion of Giant emissions should receive further consideration. Some pointed out that we have frequent concerns about transboundary pollution arriving by wind into the NWT and that by accepting increased dispersion we would be spreading our own pollutants in a similar fashion. For this reason, some suggested we should continue to look at emission reductions.

Company representatives stated that they consider proper preventative maintenance and operation of existing arsenic control equipment to be a high priority. They could not commit to making improvements in sulphur dioxide controls until economic costs were identified but they are interested in assessing increased dispersion through modelling work with Renewable Resources. The company presently shows 7 years of ore reserves on their books. They stated that the property continues to be a marginal operation that can't sustain large capital expenditure.

**Royal Oak Mines Inc.
Colomac Gold Mine**

P.O. Bag 3000, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2M2
Tel: (403) 873-6301 ext. 404 Fax: (403) 920-2133

Fax Cover Sheet

Date: 94 12 21
Destination: GNWT - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
Attention: EMERY PAQUIN
Fax Number: 873 0221
From: DAVE ANTHONY

Number of pages including this cover: 2

Merry Christmas Emery!

Comments to your minutes of Nov. 28 1994
air quality Meeting.

Regards

Dave A.

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Alice Hill, Yellowknife Dene Band

Dave McKenna, DFO

Laura Johnson, Environment Canada

John Witteman, DIAND

Ranjit Sonniassy, DIAND

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DRAFT*Alice Hill pointed out that in recent years significant revegetation has occurred and air/water quality continues to improve.*

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Renewable Resources provided a presentation on studies conducted by the Department, levels of arsenic and sulphur dioxide measured, regulatory and physical control options and current activities. It was pointed out that ^{minor} vegetation damage is caused by sulphur dioxide. According to an assessment by the Department of Health, present air pollution levels do not present an unacceptable risk to human health.

Following the presentation, participants noted that ^{arsenic} emissions from the Giant roaster stack have been a concern of Yellowknife residents for many decades. It is valuable to have the information that is now available when dealing with those concerns. There was discomfort about the levels of air pollution in Yellowknife and there was general agreement that efforts should be made to improve air quality. Health representatives commented that pollution levels now being experienced are at the "borderline" and increases would take us to levels that present a risk to human health.

*SO₂**on very few occasions for people with respiratory illness.*

Economic considerations influence solutions to the problem. It was felt that increasing dispersion of Giant emissions should receive further consideration. Some pointed out that we have frequent concerns about transboundary pollution arriving by wind into the NWT and that by accepting increased dispersion we would be spreading our own pollutants in a similar fashion. For this reason, some suggested we should continue to look at emission reductions.

Company representatives stated that they consider maintaining and operating existing arsenic control equipment to be a high priority. They could not commit to making improvements in sulphur dioxide until economic costs were identified but they are interested in assessing increased dispersion through modelling work with Renewable Resources. The company presently shows 7 years of ore reserves on their books. They will continue to be a marginal operation that can't sustain a lot of capital expenditure.

It was also noted that arsenic emissions are substantially better than the mid 1980's.

Minutes prepared by James Sparling 29 November 1994

DRAFT*Comments to the Draft, submitted by Royal Oak Mines Inc.**David Anthony*

941221

COVER SHEET - FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

NUMBER OF PAGES 1 PLUS COVERDATE: 16 Dec 94TO: Dave AnthonyGiant Yellowknife MineFROM: E. Paquin

Environment Protection Division,
Department of Renewable Resources,
Government of the Northwest Territories
600, 5102 - 50th Ave.
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 3S8

COMMENTS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTION

Merry Christmas Dave!

CONFIRMATION NUMBERS

Telephone: (403) 873-7654

Facsimile: (403) 873-0221

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Following the presentation, participants noted that emissions from the Giant roaster stack have been a concern of Yellowknife residents for many decades. It is valuable to have the information that is now available when dealing with those concerns. There was discomfort about the levels of air pollution in Yellowknife and there was general agreement that efforts should be made to improve air quality. Health representatives commented that pollution levels now being experienced are at the "borderline" and increases would take us to levels that present a risk to human health.

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Minutes prepared by James Sparling 29 November 1994

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Post-it

FAX TRANSMITTAL MEMO 7671

NO. OF PAGES

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TO: <u>David Anthony</u>	FROM: <u>Emily Paquin</u>
CO.: <u>Royal Oak Mine</u>	CO.: <u>Renewable Resources</u>
DEPT: <u></u>	PHONE #: <u>875-7654</u>
FAX #: <u></u>	FAX #: <u>875-0221</u>

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*Are these
accurate now?***DRAFT**

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DRAFTMinutes prepared by ~~Emily Paquin~~ 28 November 1994 and approved 4 January 1995