

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO: Director General
Program Management
Medical Services Branch

FROM: Regional Director
Northwest Territories Region

ACTION		PA date	BF date
M 14			
INFORMATION			
M 63	M	M	
M 87	M	M	
M	M	M	

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE 151-1-5-N (N1)
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE July 22 1975

SUBJECT
OBJET

POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF
ARSENIC-BEARING TAILINGS IN YELLOWKNIFE NWT

Thank you for your letter of July 16th. I note the reversal of policy since June 10th, the date of my enquiry to Branch Headquarters before initiating this correspondence with Health Protection Branch and that in future all requests for assistance will be handled from Branch Headquarters.

As the initiative for following this particular information through is now with Branch perhaps it would be appropriate for me to make some suggestions concerning the relevancy of the information presently to hand.

1. The information known to Medical Services Branch is also known to the Northwest Territories Indian Brotherhood. It is not known what use of this information is contemplated by the Brotherhood.
2. It may well be that the Arsenic is in a relatively innocuous form. While it is appreciated that this influences its acute toxicity, that is not the point. The Brotherhood and C.B.C. have not shown any interest heretofore in the negative radicle. I suggest that the presence of the metal will make news, not its chemistry.
3. Certain levels of metallic radicle have not successfully been accounted for in biological samples taken from the native population.
4. I am not sure that we have yet heard the last of Arsenic from the news media or the Brotherhood.
5. Finally, I would suggest that this issue should be one for action, rather than contemplation.

I hope that the forthright style of the above will not be regarded as offensive, but I apprehend embarrassment to the Department in the future and wish to make the warning very plain.

F. J. Covill, M.B., B.S., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.
Regional Director

T.P. call Covill re enlisting DOE Lab service
- Check E Veldhuizen re This

28 July 75
M67
for follow up please
ju

062806

MEDICAL SERVICES
HEADQUARTERS

JUL 24 9 39 AM '75

QUARTIERS GENERALES
SERVICES MEDICAUX

1. Special team concentration:
This is a team of specialists and is not a unit.

2. This team is composed of specialists and is not a unit.

3. This team is composed of specialists and is not a unit.

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5. This team is composed of specialists and is not a unit.

6. This team is composed of specialists and is not a unit.

7. This team is composed of specialists and is not a unit.

URGENT - SECURITY MATTER - INFORMATION
TO: DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
FROM: DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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