

PA 7 880-5-X751

Medical Services
Northwest Territories Region
14th Floor Baker Centre
10025 106 Street
Edmonton, Alta
T5J 1H2

ACTION	PA AC	DATE
TITORPE		
INFORMATION		
HICKS		
SINCLAIR		
F.C.		

July 27, 1976

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

151-1-5 N (N1)

Mr. R. Hornell,
Regional Director, Resources,
Dept of Indian and Northern Development,
P O Box 1500
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Hornell:

I am directed to call your attention to an incident concerning a report of an investigation carried out in 1975 on aspects of the operation of Giant Mine, Yellowknife, N.W.T. My Minister, the Honorable Marc Lalonde, has been somewhat embarrassed by a breakdown in communications, between this Department and the management of Giant Mines. In part the delinquency rests upon my Region, and I do not seek to excuse this failure.

I believe the clearest explanation of the problem which has arisen will be provided by forwarding you copies of relevant correspondence and I accordingly enclose:

1. A copy of a memorandum addressed to me by Senior Consultant, Public Service Health, September 24, 1975.
2. A letter addressed to Dr. Eaton and copied inter alia to my Minister, dated July 7 1976.
3. A copy of a letter by Dr. Eaton addressed to Mr. W. A. Moore, Mine Manager, Giant Yellowknife Mines dated July 20 1976.

Although I believe no further action is feasible to repair the damage you may find it appropriate to make the officer or officers concerned aware of the consequences of this communication breakdown for their information and education.

Yours very truly,

F. J. Covill

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

Regional Director

cc - Director General, Program Management, M.S.

- Dr. R.D.P. Eaton, Northern Medical Research Unit

850-5-X751

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
A

Dr. F.J. Covill
Regional Director
Northwest Territories Region

FROM
DE

Principal Medical Officer
Medical Services Branch

SECURITY-CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE-N/RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE-V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE July 23, 1976.

SUBJECT
OBJET

Giant Yellowknife Mines - Report of Investigation, 1975

Attached are copies of a letter from Mr. Moore, Manager of Giant Yellowknife Mines to Dr. Eaton, Dr. Eaton's reply and a memorandum from headquarters concerning the distribution of the report. At the time we gave considerable emphasis to a commitment that all parties, agencies and the general public should be fully informed about the results of our study. It is unfortunate that, in spite of Dr. Eaton's efforts, a member of Indian Affairs and Northern Development neglected to give a report to the company.

We would prefer not to make an issue out of this at the headquarters level, but we feel strongly that Indian Affairs and Northern Development should be made aware of the consequences of this communication breakdown at the local level. Would you please bring this forward to the appropriate officers for their information and education.

Dr. Hicks has spoken by telephone to Mr. Emery of Giant Yellowknife offering a verbal apology and our ADM is writing to them in a similar vein.

Original signed by
H. B. BRETT
e signé l'original
H.B. Brett

Attach.



HANDIMEMO
BLOC — MESSAGES

TO — À	M. Barron	FILE — DOSSIER	853-2
FROM — DE	Cliff Hicks	DATE	23/7/76.
SUBJECT — OBJET	Great Yellowknife Mines		

INSTRUCTIONS

For informal intra-office or inter-office use in medical services to exchange views or to send information to others or to file. If a reply is to come back from another office. The originator should send out two copies so that one will be returned to him. Each message should be numbered and entered below the preceding one. When a page is full, another is to be added beneath, not above it.

À l'usage des services médicaux, pour échange non-officiel d'opinions ou de renseignements. À l'intérieur d'un même bureau ou d'un bureau à l'autre. L'expéditeur qui désire une réponse enverra deux exemplaires afin que l'un d'eux lui soit retourné. Numéroté chaque message et l'inscrire sous le précédent. A la fin de la feuille ajouter une nouvelle feuille après, et non avant, celle qui est complète.

In 1975 we completed an investigation on arsenic in yellowknife. In spite of a real determination on our part to assure that the reports went to all concerned parties, the attached correspondence demonstrates that the company did not receive a copy of the report. Mr. Caton turned over copies for distribution to an official of IAB who have the authority for mine inspection. IAB officials did not deliver to the company.

Mr. Caton has apologized (letter attached) and yesterday I telephoned the mine manager and apologized to them. Because we have every determination to cooperate with industry in these cases, I feel it would be beneficial for you to write as well — hence this letter.

[Handwritten signature]

12

19th Floor,
Jeanne Mance Building,
Tunney's Pasture,
OTTAWA, Ontario.
K1A 0L3

July 23, 1976.

850-5-x757

~~953-2~~ (FHH)

Mr. W.A. Moore,
Mine Manager,
Giant Yellowknife Mines
Limited,
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.
XOE 1H0

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am aware that Dr. F.H. Hicks, our Senior Consultant, Public Service Health, has spoken to your Mr. Emery by telephone concerning the distressing breakdown in communications which has blocked our 1975 report from reaching you. I want to add my apology to his and to that of Dr. Eaton in his letter to you dated July 20. Your letter was the first intimation any of us had that the report was not delivered to the company last September. I am particularly unhappy because we thought we had emphasized so strongly that all concerned parties must receive the report promptly that your letter was an appalling shock.

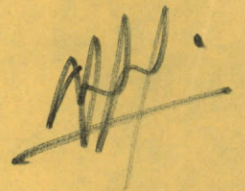
Further, my officers have made it clear that they have had outstanding courtesy and cooperation from you at all times. While we will make certain that there will be no recurrence of this incident, I want you to know how truly we regret the affair. re-

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by
CHARLES-E. CARON
a signé l'original

Charles-E. Caron,
Assistant Deputy Minister,
Medical Services Branch.

c.c.: Dr. F.J. Covill,
Regional Director,
N.W.T. Region.



Original signed by
CHARLES E. CARON
a signé l'original



MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

~~853-2~~
850-5-X751

TO
A
Director General, Program Management
Medical Services Branch

FROM
DE
Regional Director
Northwest Territories Region

SECURITY-CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE-N/RÉFÉRENCE 100-1-6-N (N1)
YOUR FILE-V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE July 21 1976

SUBJECT
OBJET
LETTER FROM MANAGER, GIANT MINES, YELLOWKNIFE NWT

Having regard for the distribution of Mr. Moore's letter, I thought you would like to be furnished with a copy of this correspondence.

F. J. Covill

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

Enc.

[Large handwritten signature]

ACTION	PA AC	DATE
BLACK		05/7/76
INFORMATION		
Hicks		

*This matter dealt with
by Mr. Hicks.*
*- Phone call to Giant Mine
Manager.*
- Letter to Mr. Covill

B.B.
27/7/76.

11.27.76.

GIANT YELLOWKNIFE MINES LIMITED
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

XOE 1HO
CANADA

July 7, 1976.

Dr. R. D. P. Eaton,
Program Medical Officer,
N.W.T. Region,
Medical Services Branch,
Dept. of Health and Welfare,
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Dr. Eaton:

Last July, two consultants, Reg Ross and R. Rispler, from the Dept. of Health and Welfare, Ottawa, paid a visit to the Mill at Giant to do a dust survey. They were treated with courtesy and given every assistance needed to complete their work.

Last week we learned that they were returning to Giant to conduct a similar survey. We thought it strange that we hadn't heard about the results of their first survey yet, when a copy of their 1975 report was pushed under the door of the Mill Superintendent's office on June 30th.

This week Messrs. Ross and Rispler arrived at Giant. We learned that their report on their 1975 visit had been completed in July of last year, and that a copy had been marked for the attention of Giant. We also learned that Local 803, U.S.W.A. (the Giant Local) had received a copy of the report last year, but evidently it was not considered important enough for Health & Welfare to send one to Giant.

Had the report been unfavourable, I'm sure that Giant would have been the first to be notified.

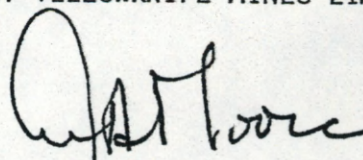
This attitude of "using" industry as a testing ground, as a whipping post, seems typical of government officials and Ministers generally. It would appear that the object of the game is to show industry in an unfavourable light in every instance, at every opportunity, forgetting that without a healthy industry, there would be fewer jobs, fewer tax dollars to blow on non-productive programs, and indeed, to pay for our government bureaucracy.

... 2

This company expects to, and is, indeed, eager to conform with increasingly higher standards of health in the working conditions in its plant. But we expect to be treated as partners in this endeavour and not be ignored. It hurts us to be treated in this fashion. We see Labour, which hasn't contributed a cent towards research in industrial health in the area being toadied up to by government, socialists, professors, and the government news media, while the efforts of companies, that have poured an increasingly greater amount of their technology and dollars into improvements in working conditions are largely ignored. It is a sad commentary on the state of government-industry relations in Canada.

Yours very truly,

GIANT YELLOWKNIFE MINES LIMITED.



W. A. Moore,
Mine Manager.

WAM*mb

c.c. Marc Lalonde, Minister Health & Welfare
Joe Clarke, Prog. Conserv. H.Q.
John H. Parker
D.J.E.

Dr. R. D. P. Eaton
Northern Medical Research Unit
Charles Cammell Hospital
12815 - 115 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

July 20, 1976

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

Mr. W. A. Moore
Mine Manager
Giant Yellowknife Mines Limited
Yellowknife, N. W. T.
XOE 1H0

Dear Mr. Moore,

I was most distressed to receive your letter of July 7th, which for reason of a slightly deficient address did not reach me until today (July 20th).

Though I am no longer acting in the position of Programs Medical Officer, having returned to my former position in the Northern Medical Research Unit, I am replying personally since I enjoyed such cordial relations with your predecessor during the time of our association.

I am frankly unable to understand why a copy of the previous report was not received by you.

I personally carried, as I remember, six copies of this report to Yellowknife the day after we received them in Edmonton. Distribution included the Mine Managers at Con and Giant, the Union local, and the D. I. N. A. mines inspector, Mr. Hal Brown.

Because of a requirement for my attendance at a deadline for a meeting all copies were handed by me either to Mr. Brown or Mr. Patrick - and at this time I cannot remember which - in the D. I. N. A. office in the Bellanca building who agreed to circulate them on my behalf.

I was at some pains to obtain assurance that this would be done without delay, not because I thought Giant mine would not get a copy but at the time there was a confusion as to which Union was properly representing the mine employees and we were concerned that the Union representative would be missed.

The names of the intended recipients were noted by Mr. Brown (or Mr. Patrick) and I watched him write them down.

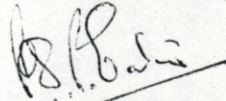
Your letter of today is the first intimation that the report was not delivered as expected.

This quite obviously does not exonerate me as I patently failed to carry out completely a task I had undertaken. However I hope that you will realise that Medical Services as a whole cannot be faulted since all concerned, and especially Messrs. Ross and Rispler, had made every effort to ensure that the reports would be delivered promptly.

Your last but one paragraph is perhaps unfortunate in that it voices a criticism of Medical Services which could hardly be less true. Our department is and will always be concerned to work with industry to achieve total cooperation in health matters.

However I can fully appreciate your obvious annoyance and I can only apologise for having been instrumental in causing it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R.D.P. Eaton', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

R.D.P. Eaton, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Ph.D.

Northern Medical Research Unit