

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO  
A

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

FROM  
DE

Director General,  
Program Management,  
Medical Services Branch.

SUBJECT  
OBJET

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

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE  850-5-X751 (M67)
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE  July 16, 1975.

A copy of your letter to Dr. Grimard was forwarded to us from the Health Protection Branch. We have replied to Dr. Toft in this connection with copy to you.

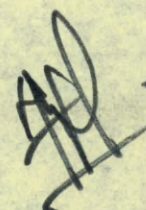
We would ask you to channel all your requests concerning any matters which may involve the headquarters of the Health Protection Branch through this office. We will certainly invite their participation if it is necessary.

Concerning the attachments to your letter to Dr. Grimard, we are not satisfied that the soil analysis report is correct, in that it assumes that the arsenic contaminant in the soil is arsenic trioxide. It is quite possibly largely arsenopyrite, and we are not, at this stage, prepared to express an opinion regarding the potential health hazard associated with exposure to soil with this type of contaminant.

In any event, it is important that we do not proceed with further studies independently of the one currently being done by the University of Alberta under contract with Environment Canada. May I suggest you have Dr. Eaton contact the Regional D.O.E. Director and discuss the present status of their study. I am sure your input and suggestions will be welcomed.

Our Branch Technical Support Unit is engaged in determining the significance of arsenic trioxide versus other forms, in relation to human health. They are in close contact with the other agencies, and are prepared to undertake field work themselves when appropriate. Your co-operation in channeling all material through our own headquarters will automatically involve them, and will greatly simplify matters.

Original signed by  
L. M. BLACK  
e signé l'original  
L.M. Black.





MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO  
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Dr. P. Toft,  
Acting Chief,  
Environmental Standards Division,  
Health Protection Branch.

FROM  
DE

Director General,  
Program Management,  
Medical Services Branch.

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Thank you for bringing Dr. Covill's letter to Dr. Grimard to our attention. A number of agencies have become involved in the arsenic problem in Yellowknife and this Branch is attempting to act as a coordinator and to see that duplication of investigations do not occur.

In this instance we recommend no further investigation until all the present evidence is in. Environment Canada has a contract with the University of Alberta for the university to study soils and vegetation. In conducting this work, they will specifically identify the form in which arsenic is found. The report should be available this Fall. When we have a copy we will be pleased to contact you concerning any necessary further action.

Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Original signed by  
L.M. BLACK  
e signed original

L.M. Black.

cc: Dr. F.J. Covill,  
R.D., N.W.T. Region.

