



January 13, 1981

Mr. Terry Daniels, Manager
N.W.T. Chamber of Mines
Box 2818
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0

Dear Terry:

Re: Changes to Mining Safety Ordinance

The following are my personal thoughts on changing the Ordinance.

Mike Hewitt has it!
Section 3(b) - The Registry should be in the Northwest Territories--maybe with the W.C.B. as they are the body which use the records when claims arise.

correct!
Section 12 - This section should be deleted. Hours of work are not a matter of safety any longer. Maintaining safe and healthy working conditions is the approach to take. Matters like hours of work should be (and are) in the Labour Standards Ordinance.

Discrimination because of age!
Section 13 - Hoistmen over 45 years of age should have medical examinations every six months. This practice is followed with Commercial Pilots.

in which case, they would be eligible for Workers Compensation?
Section 17(2) - Persons found to have any abnormal condition of the lungs or bronchial tract should not have their Miner's Certificate renewed until the condition has cleared up. This would mean removing them from a "dust exposure occupation".

Terry Daniels, Manager
N.W.T. Chamber of Mines
Yellowknife

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Section 19(1) - Chest x-rays should be given every second
16(2)? year unless the medical office has reason
to suspect an incipient abnormal chest
condition.

Section 28, - The wording should be updated to include
Remove! all diesel powered equipment used underground.
See Appendix "A"
Section 40(3) - The additional penalty presently applies only
may be to a person who "might have endangered the
safety of persons...". It should be amended
to also cover persons who "did endanger the
safety of persons...".

In addition consideration should be given to the following:

1. The right of the Commissioner to appoint a competent, professional person to conduct an inquiry into special situations concerning Mine Safety and Health. eg. Mine disasters.
2. The establishment of a "Task Force" every four years to review the Ordinance and the whole matter of Mine Safety and Health in the N.W.T. This task Force would be made up equally of representatives of employers and labour with the Chairman appointed by the Commissioner. The Task Force would report to the Commissioner.
3. Under "Other Health Measures" there should be included a section on "Occupational Health Hazards" other than silica dust and radioactive materials. What I envisage is something which permits the Commissioner to make Regulations respecting such hazards.

In closing I wish to make you aware that some people feel that the Mine Inspectorate, W.C.B. and Occupational Health and Safety Department should be merged. If that is not the feeling of the Mine Operators, then convincing arguments should be prepared.

Yours very truly,


W. A. Case
Senior Mining Engineer

WAC/cr

3. Re-Establishment of Basic Compensation Principles & Priorities

The Company does not believe that the present system has deviated from basic principles.

4. W.C.B. and Industrial Health & Safety

- i) The Company feels that the W.C.B. should continue to be active in:
 - education, posters
 - first aid support
- ii) The W.C.B. could arrange to have a resident examiner for audiometry technicians, or have one come to Yellowknife annually, for this purpose.
- iii) The W.C.B. should arrange for calibration of audiometers.
- iv) This Company does not believe that the W.C.B. should get into the field of occupational health or safety inspections.

5. The Current Levels of Compensation and The Manner In Which They Are Set

- i) The Company feels that 75% of the workers average remuneration is an adequate level of benefit payments.
- ii) In 1981 the Company was advised that the new year Maximum Assessable Remuneration was to be increased from \$16,800 to \$20,400 or an increase of 21.4%.

The Company feels that the new level of Maximum Assessable Remuneration is probably higher than the average wage in the N.W.T. and should not be changed for some time.

6. The Processing of Claims & Costs of Replacement Income Compensation

The Company does not hear at present from the W.C.B. on a monthly basis, as to the benefits paid the employee, and cannot comment.

The Company does not understand how the Replacement Income Compensation is calculated, or the method of determining the amount paid. The principle is good.

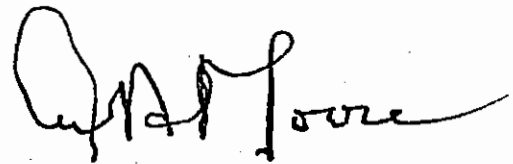
7. The Rehabilitation of Workers

The Company feels that rehabilitation of the injured employee should be done at a special clinic with proper equipment and staff. Later, light duty work on the job is valuable to further fit the employee for full duty. The Company supports the principle of light duty work whole heartedly.

8. W.C.B. in Other Jurisdictions

The Company feels that the W.C.B. - N.W.T. is based on the best ideas of workers compensation from other jurisdictions now, and should not be changed without consultation between labour, management and government groups.

Feb. 21/81



W. A. Moore
General Manager