




Changing Yellowknife's Drinking Water Supply

Tuesday, May 10, 2011



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Information Session for Drinking Water Source Selection

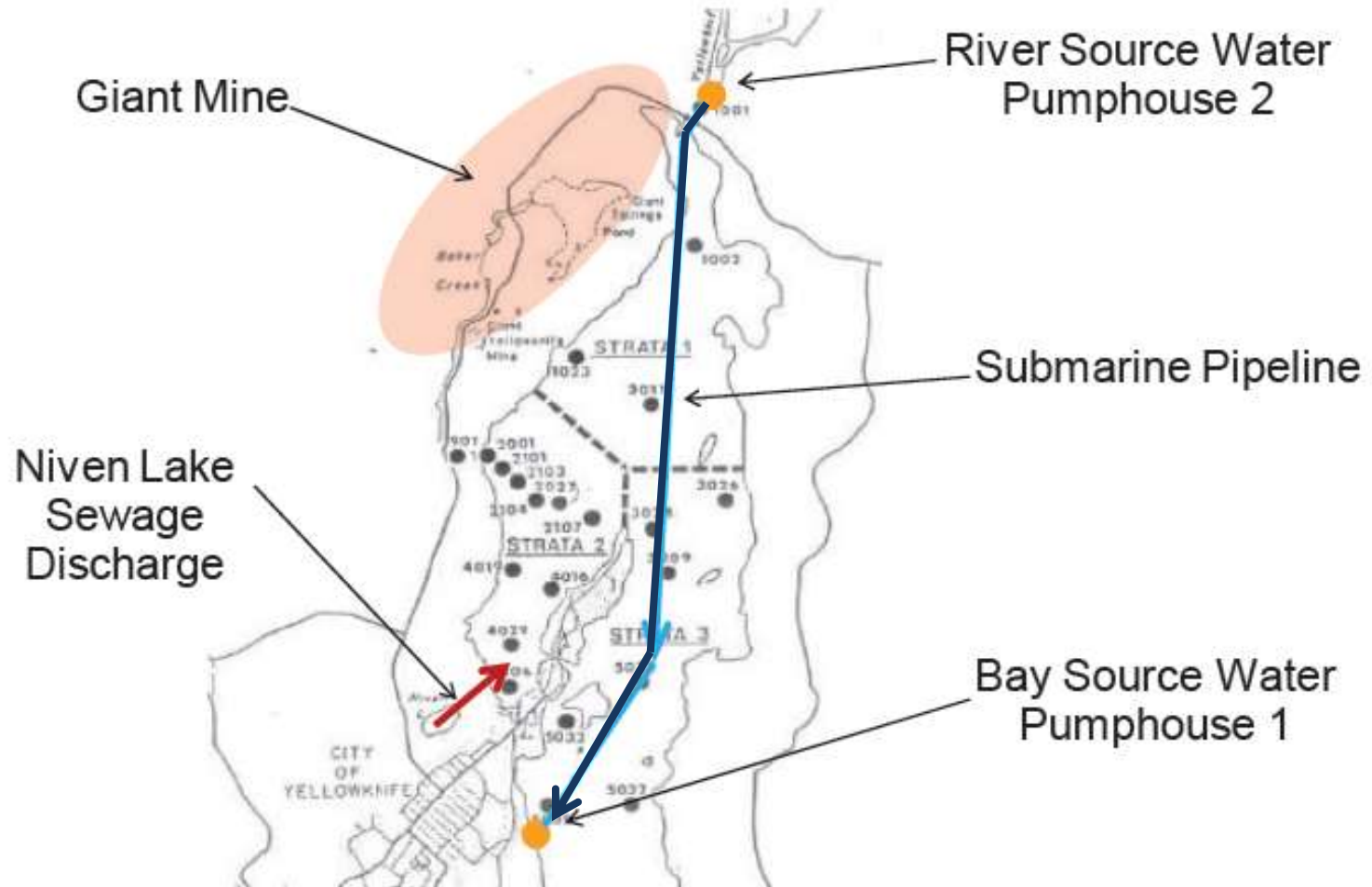
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The City of Yellowknife will be holding an information session as part of the requirements for the water treatment plant project, to present options for changing the source of Yellowknife's drinking water. The session will be held on **Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Silver Room at the Yellowknife Inn.

For more information, please contact the City at 920-5653.

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Orientation of Sources





Giant Mine – What if.....

- Tailings Pond Breach
- Water Discharged into Baker Creek / Back Bay
- Initial Giant Mine work applied a dilution ratio of 200:1 from Baker Creek to South Yellowknife Bay (SWK Consulting, 2009)
- Arsenic Concentration Drops
 - 20,000 ppb to 100 ppb at the Intake
- In the event of a release there would likely NOT be enough time to
 - Procure, install and commission arsenic removal equipment,
 - Commission previously installed equipment

Low Probability Scenario – Tailings Pond Failure

- Tailings Ponds Dam Failure
- 20,000 ppb water release into Baker Creek / Back Bay
- Concentration at Bay Intake 100 ppb
- Passive Arsenic Removal System in Place
- Reduces Arsenic Concentration to below 10 ppb
- Arsenic Removal System provides 3 to 4 months of treatment
- Pre-arranged Media Replacement Program Activated

Potential of Future Arsenic Event

- Event Basis
 - Arsenic greater than 10 ppb in Bay Raw Water
- Statistical Analysis Completed
- Cause: Release of pore water
- Conclusions
 - Short Term Event of less than 10 days in duration: U **Unlikely**
 - Long Term Event exceeds 0.4 (1.0 is a definite occurrence)

This Presentation date
May 11, 2011

Start date of tailings pond spill
May 14, 2011

Friday, May 13, 2011

Residents' arsenic fears cloud city's water plan

Nicole Veerman

Northern News Services

Published Friday, May 13, 2011

SOMBA K'E/YELLOWKNIFE - The city is considering changing its drinking water source to Yellowknife Bay from the Yellowknife River - a switch that would require an arsenic treatment system.

The recommendation, from Edmonton-based AECOM, the company hired by the city to design the new water treatment plant to be constructed next year, was presented to about 30 Yellowknifers Tuesday night during an information session at the Yellowknife Inn.

Richard Tombs, a process engineer for AECOM, told the crowd that the consensus within his company is the city should move "forward with the design of a water treatment plant that utilizes the bay as the raw water source, that includes an arsenic treatment stage to address the annual variations in arsenic and the presence of Giant Mine."

The recommendation came with resistance from residents.

Material Safety Data Sheet



MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

ARSENIC TRIOXIDE

PRODUCT CODE NUMBER(S): 1990-1, 1991-1

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Chemical Name and Synonyms: *Arsenic trioxide; Arsenous trioxide; Arsenic (III) oxide; Arsenic sesquioxide*
Chemical Family: *Metal oxide*
Chemical Formula: As_2O_3

Product Use: *Laboratory reagent*

Manufacturer's Name and Address:

*Caledon Laboratories Ltd.
40 Armstrong Avenue
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4R9*

Telephone No: (905) 877-0101

Fax No: (905) 877-6666

Emergency Telephone No: CANUTEC (613) 996-6666

HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS OF MATERIALS

FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA

Flammability: *Not combustible*
Extinguishing Media: *Use any means suitable for surrounding fire. Fight fire from upwind, from a safe distance. Firefighters must wear protective equipment (NIOSH approved positive-pressure, full face-piece self-contained breathing apparatus) and clothing sufficient to prevent inhalation of dust or fumes, and contact with skin and eyes.*
Flash Point (Method Used): *Not applicable*
Autoignition Temperature: *Not applicable*
Upper Flammable Limit (% by volume): *Not applicable*
Lower Flammable Limit (% by volume): *Not applicable*
Hazardous Combustion Products: *Toxic fumes of arsenic, and arsenic oxides*
Sensitivity to Impact: *None identified*
Sensitivity to Static discharge: *None identified*

Lethal dose = 120 mg

How many lethal doses are there?

237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide
= 237,000,000 Kilograms (kg)
= 237,000,000,000 Grams (g)
= 237,000,000,000,000 milligrams (mg)
÷ 120 mg (lethal dose)
= 1.975 trillion lethal doses
÷ by 7 billion (world's current population)
= 282 times

Giant Mine Remediation Project

Developer's Assessment Report

Oct 2010

Table 8.4.3 Arsenic Loadings to Surface Waters

Sources	Estimated Arsenic Releases to Water (kg/year)		
	Current	Post-Remediation	No-Remediation
Inputs to Baker Creek			
Baker Creek Upstream of Giant Mine	220	220	220
Tributaries from West of Giant Mine	67	67	67
Current Water Treatment Plant	290	n/a	n/a
Runoff from Surface Facilities to Baker Creek	220	190	220
Underground Mine to Baker Creek ^a	0	0	7,100
Total Inputs to Baker Creek	800	480	7,607
Inputs to Yellowknife Bay			
From Baker Creek	800	480	7,607
Direct Runoff to Yellowknife Bay	110	69	110
New Water Treatment Plant ^b	n/a	140	n/a
Total Inputs to Yellowknife Bay	910	690	7,717

RAW EMISSIONS

Start	End	Days	kg/day	kg Arsenic Released
01-Jan-48	31-Dec-53	2,160	7,300.0	15,768,000
01-Jan-54	31-Dec-54	360	5,500.0	1,980,000
01-Jan-55	31-Dec-57	1,080	3,300.0	3,564,000
01-Jan-58	31-Dec-58	360	1,600.0	576,000
01-Jan-59	31-Dec-70	4,320	370.0	1,598,400
01-Jan-71	31-Dec-77	2,520	350.0	882,000
01-Jan-78	31-Dec-95	6,480	30.5	197,640
TOTAL				24,566,040

Arsenic going into Yellowknife Bay (in a normal/**good year**)

CURRENTLY

910 kg =
enough lethal
doses to kill
7.5 million
every year

AFTER REMEDIATION

690 kg =
enough lethal
doses to kill
5.75 million
every year

Deaths from arsenic poisoning

In April 1951, arsenic killed a two year old Yellowknives Dene boy on Latham Island (today's Ndilo). A coroner's inquest ruled that the boy had died from "acute gastroenteritis caused by **arsenical poisoning** administered by unknown means."

Subsequent reports clarified the precise cause of death. I.F. Kirkby, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, reported that the boy had died from **contaminated drinking water**. Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines, Ltd. provided the family with \$750 for the loss of their son.

Deaths from arsenic poisoning

But the greatest tragedy occurred in spring 1951: four children in family camps in Ndilo died.

The mine owners gave their parents some money, as if it could compensate for the loss.



Testimony of the YK Dene

*“Before the Yellowknives Dene understood what arsenic was, they were aware of changes that made them wary of the water, fish, berries, and plants near the mine sites. When land users took their sled dogs through the tailings ponds that crossed their traditional trails, the dogs would lose the fur on their paws within a day or two. The Elders can recall people falling off their sled into the tailings ponds, which stayed open year-round, and becoming ill, losing their hair soon after. After many of their sled dogs died without obvious cause, dog owners stopped feeding them fish from Weledeh. **People, too, started dying from cancer at a rate previously unknown to Yellowknives Dene.**”*

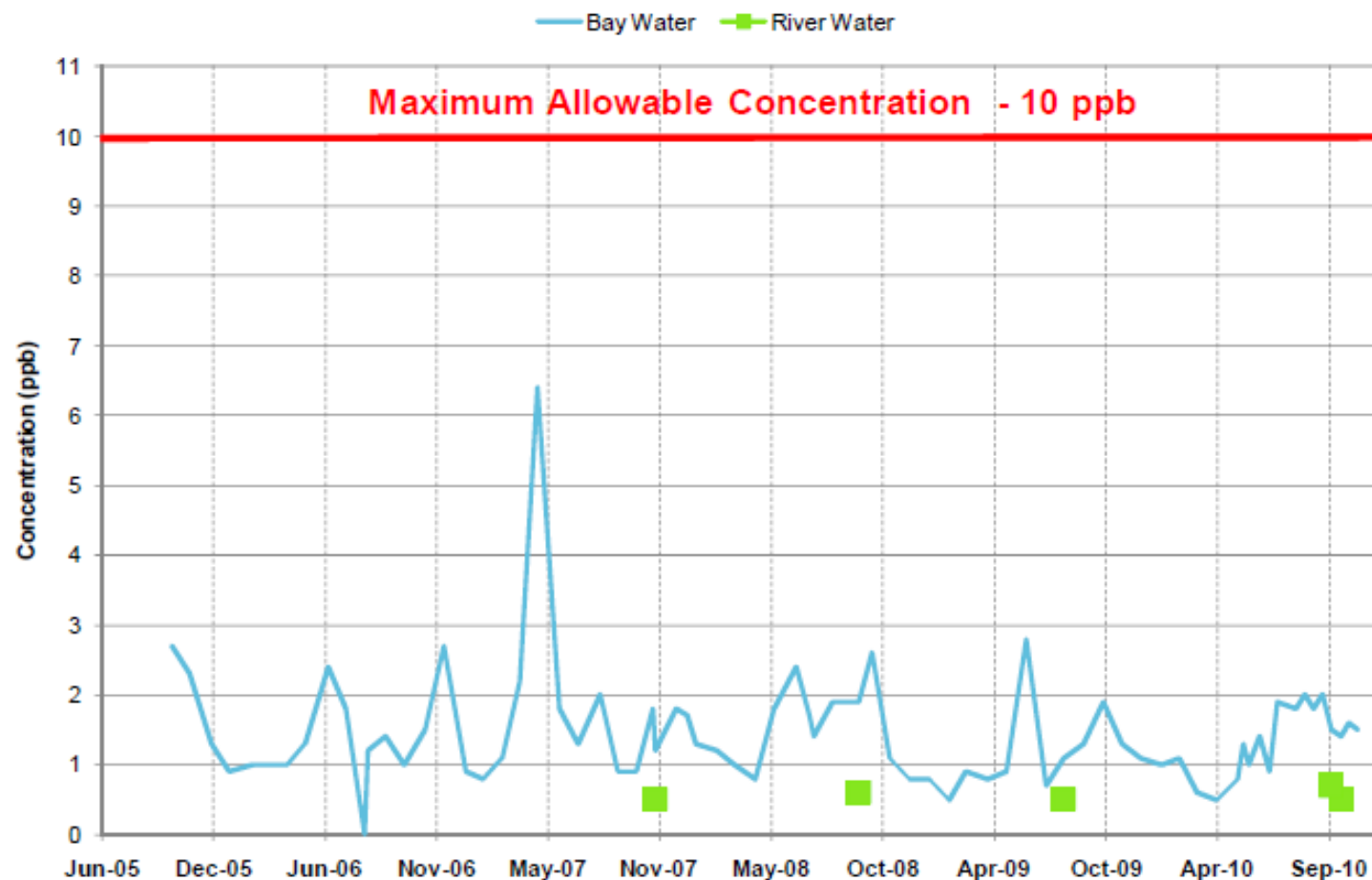
Rachel Ann Crapeau, November 13, 1998,
YDKFN Taped interview

Cancer deaths (ppb)

National Academy of Sciences 1999

Arsenic Level in Tap Water (in parts per billion, or ppb)	Approximate Total Cancer Risk (assuming 2 liters consumed/day)
0.5 ppb	1 in 10,000 2 people/year
1 ppb	1 in 5,000
3 ppb	1 in 1,667
4 ppb	1 in 1,250
5 ppb	1 in 1,000
10 ppb	1 in 500 40 people/year
20 ppb	1 in 250
25 ppb	1 in 200
50 ppb	1 in 100

Arsenic Concentrations



Saturday, May 14, 2011



Saturday, May 14, 2011





Canada

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NT-NU 24-HOUR SPILL REPORT LINE

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EMAIL: spills@gov.nt.ca

REPORT LINE USE ONLY

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	B	OCCURRENCE DATE: MONTH – DAY – YEAR May 14, 2011		
C	LAND USE PERMIT NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)		WATER LICENCE NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)	
D	GEOGRAPHIC PLACE NAME OR DISTANCE AND DIRECTION FROM NAMED LOCATION Giant Mine		REGION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NWT <input type="checkbox"/> NUNAVUT <input type="checkbox"/> ADJACENT JURISDICTION OR OCEAN	
E	LATITUDE DEGREES _____ MINUTES _____ SECONDS _____		LONGITUDE DEGREES _____ MINUTES _____ SECONDS _____	
F	RESPONSIBLE PARTY OR VESSEL NAME Deton' Cho/Nuna JV	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ADDRESS OR OFFICE LOCATION PO Box 2951 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R2		
G	ANY CONTRACTOR INVOLVED	CONTRACTOR ADDRESS OR OFFICE LOCATION		
H	PRODUCT SPILLED Historic Tailings/Sediment	QUANTITY IN LITRES, KILOGRAMS OR CUBIC METRES unknown	U.N. NUMBER	
	SECOND PRODUCT SPILLED (IF APPLICABLE)	QUANTITY IN LITRES, KILOGRAMS OR CUBIC METRES	U.N. NUMBER	
I	SPILL SOURCE	SPILL CAUSE Baker Creek rerouting itself	AREA OF CONTAMINATION IN SQUARE METRES unknown	
J	FACTORS AFFECTING SPILL OR RECOVERY Historic Tailings/Sediment	DESCRIBE ANY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED Input on response	HAZARDS TO PERSONS, PROPERTY OR ENVIRONMENT unknown	
K	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, COMMENTS, ACTIONS PROPOSED OR TAKEN TO CONTAIN, RECOVER OR DISPOSE OF SPILLED PRODUCT AND CONTAMINATED MATERIALS Due to icing conditions along Baker Creek all winter, the creek re-routed itself into an area it would not normally flow. Sedimentation has occurred as the water moves over new ground and is entering the Baker Creek system. In addition, the new flow has found its way to an area of historic tailings adjacent to the mine road at the Vee Lake Rd intersection. Some tailings have been downcut and mobilized into the Baker Creek water system. Regulators from DFO, INAC, and Environment Canada have been to site this morning and are providing input on the response. Golder Associates has been contracted to implement a monitoring and sampling program, and a surface water hydrologist with Golder will be onsite today to assist with the response.			

Monday, May 16, 2011



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Yellowknife looking to draw drinking water from bay near toxic mine

NATIONAL NEWS | 16. MAY, 2011 BY APTN NATIONAL NEWS | 0 COMMENTS



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3

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

As of noon Wednesday, the overflowing water had been diverted back into its channel and away from the tailings pond, located at the back of Baker Pond, said Henry Westermann, director of the Giant Mine project for Public Works and Government Services Canada.

Friday, May 20, 2011

News of the
tailings pond spill
finally becomes **PUBLIC**

Chief worried about changing water source to Yellowknife Bay

Concerns raised about arsenic as Baker Creek overflows into tailings pond

Nicole Veerman

Northern News Services

Published Friday, May 20, 2011

SOMBA K'E/YELLOWKNIFE - A naturally forming ice dam caused water in Baker Creek to overflow into a tailings pond near the Vee Lake turnoff last weekend, and now the water is draining back into the creek, which leads to Back Bay.



Dettah Chief Ed Sangris points toward Baker Creek, past Giant Mine, Wednesday. Water from the creek started overflowing into a tailings pond last weekend, which Sangris worries could

Dettah Chief Ed Sangris said a mishap like this is proof the city shouldn't move its water source downstream to Yellowknife Bay from the Yellowknife River, as it is proposing right now.

"You know how the city talk about switching the water intake from the river to the bay, well if the mayor's not careful, he's going to kill everybody in Yellowknife because stuff like this goes on," Sangris said, pointing towards the 237,000 tonnes of deadly arsenic trioxide - a byproduct from decades of roasting gold ore at Giant Mine through which the creek runs - stored underground.

"It's going to affect everybody's life, not only the First Nations."

As of noon Wednesday, the overflowing water had been diverted back into its channel and away from

Friday, May 20, 2011

"You know how the city talks about switching the water intake from the river to the bay, well if the mayor's not careful, he's going to kill everybody in Yellowknife because stuff like this goes on. It's going to affect everybody's life, not only the First Nations."

Detah Chief Ed Sangris

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Public Works Canada **couldn't say**
what was in:

- the water; or
- the tailings pond ...

because it was still being tested.



Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

Affaires autochtones et
Développement du Nord Canada



Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Environment Canada



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Public Works and Government
Services Canada



Tuesday, May 30, 2011

- An employee with Golder Associates, Hilary Martin, said samples from Yellowknife Bay hadn't come back yet and Martin said people shouldn't drink the water in the bay.
- As of Friday, the government had not put up signs in the area alerting the public to the possible toxic levels in the bay.

Friday, June 3, 2011

"The government is calling this release of toxic tailings an act of nature, but there's nothing natural about arsenic-contaminated mining waste just sitting around waiting to pollute the water."

Dene National Chief
Bill Erasmus



Inspector gives Baker Creek deadline

Feds must come up with a plan to prevent spills by August, or face a fine

Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

Northern News Services

Published Friday, June 3, 2011

SOMBA K'E/YELLOWKNIFE - A water resource officer with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, formerly called Indian and Northern Affairs, has given some strict orders to his federal counterparts at Giant Mine: come up with a plan to ensure toxic tailings never mix with Baker Creek again, or face a \$100,000 fine.

The directorate has until Aug. 1 to submit their plan, and all subsequent work must be done by April 30, 2012.

Michael Martin, the water resource officer who issued the directive, said he had no other choice.

"I had reasonable ground to believe that there was potential for an adverse environmental impact. As an inspector, it's my job to enforce the Waters Act and to lay out penalties that are drawn out in the act."

He said for the protection and safety of Northerners and the environment, it was crucial the Giant Mine team find a permanent remedy so the toxic tailings never come in contact with the water again.



Water samples taken from Baker Creek two weeks ago show arsenic levels 10 times the acceptable level for drinking water after the stream overflowed into a

June 13, 2011

11.159

REPORT ON

**Baker Creek Reach 7 Overflow
Monitoring Program -
Interim Report**

Submitted to:
Public Works and Government Services Canada
5101 - 50th Ave
P.O. Box 518 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N4

Water Testing Results



- On May 16, 2011, the following metals were measured at concentrations above water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life and/or human health.

Aluminum
Antimony
Arsenic
Cadmium
Chromium
Copper
Iron

Lead
Manganese
Mercury
~~Nickel~~
~~Selenium~~
~~Silver~~
Zinc

- On May 27, 2011, (over **2 weeks later**) the **concentrations of these metals were all still above aquatic life and drinking water guidelines** except nickel, selenium and silver.

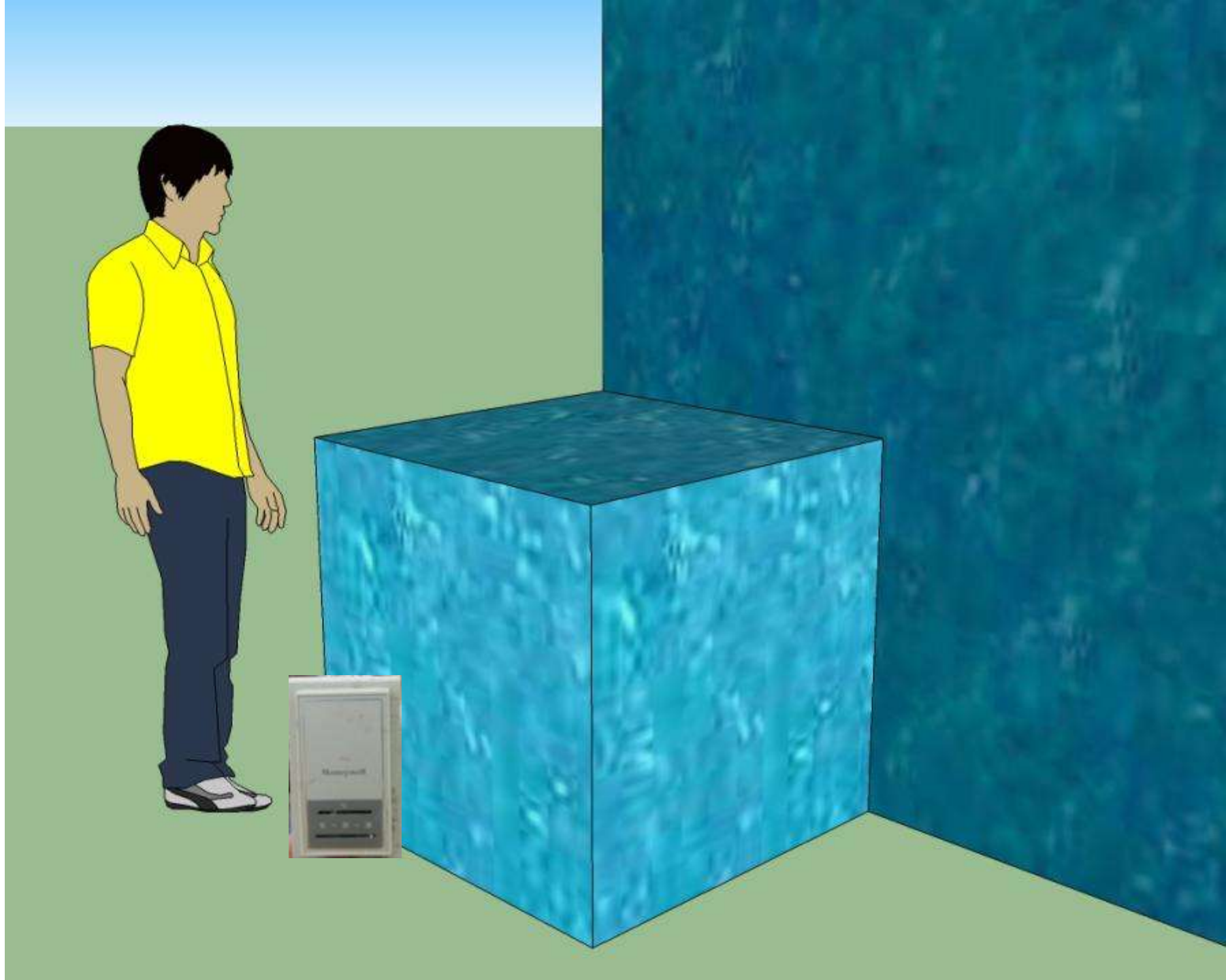
Toxicity of Mercury



**1 thermostat contains
3-5 grams mercury**

**Canadian Drinking Water
Quality Guidelines for Mercury
= 1 part per billion (1 ppb)**

**1 thermostat will contaminate
5 million litres of drinking
water.**





The image shows a large blue rectangular prism on a green field under a blue sky. A person and a small blue box are at the bottom left for scale. A text box in the center contains the volume information.

**Five million Litres
5,000,000 L**

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

City wants feds to pay for water line

Public works director argues arsenic issues leaves Ottawa on the hook

by Simon Whitehouse
Northern News Services

The city has put the federal government on notice that it wants money to replace a key piece of drinking water infrastructure.

On Jan. 17, Public Works director Dennis Kefalas sent a letter to Vern Christensen, executive director of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, requesting that the federal government cover the \$10 million needed to replace an underwater pipeline as part of the Giant Mine clean-up plan.

The current line, which runs about eight km between Pumphouse No. 1 on 48 Street and Pumphouse No. 2 at the Yellowknife River, is expected to reach its expiry date by 2020. The city has an eight-year window in which to find funding before a replacement is needed.

Kefalas argues that because contaminated water from Giant Mine was discharged into Yellowknife Bay, it should also be included in the clean-up plan, which is being carried out by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

The city had originally planned to discontinue collecting water upstream from Giant Mine at the Yellowknife River, and draw water from Yellowknife Bay.

Doing so would have been \$7 million cheaper but concerns from residents over arsenic contamination scuttled that plan, particular after Baker Creek overflowed its banks last spring and into a arsenic-contaminated tailings

pond and back into the creek and out into Yellowknife Bay.

"Regardless of what the science says the majority of

"These replacement costs will be solely on the city to absorb."

Yellowknife residents believe Yellowknife Bay will continue to be contaminated with arsenic due to historical operations and any proposes remediation processes," wrote

Kefalas. "This is the reality of the situation."

In the letter, Kefalas argues part of the Giant Mine Remediation Project should include the costs of the line replacement.

The federal government had funded the original line in 1969 due to public concerns about arsenic contamination in the water source.

"Without financial assist-

ance from other orders of government, these replacement costs will be solely on the city to absorb," Kefalas adds. "The city feels that these costs are undeserved and will place excessive financial burden on the tax base of Yellowknife."

Mayor Gord Van Tighem said the federal government should be providing more money to ensure the health and safety of the drinking water source, given this is the mandate of the Giant Mine clean-up.

"Since there is a large remediation project going on reflecting the impact of the mine, we thought it was a good idea to put a hand up and say, 'hey, part of what you should be doing is replacing this pipe because everything that we are doing is about public

safety," Van Tighem said this week.

Van Tighem admits there is still a "level of uncertainty among residents about what could happen" with a potential contamination of arsenic in the drinking water source and this was affirmed in the Kefalas letter.

The city is currently in the design phase of building a new water treatment plant and new pump-house.

Christensen told Yellowknife he could not comment in detail about the letter until the review board reads it.

A decision is to be made next week when the six-member board will be meeting in Yellowknife from Feb. 7 to 9.

"We need to look at the letter to see what the implica-

tions would be to the overall process and we haven't completed that yet," said Christensen. "We would be briefing the board on that at the meeting next week and they would have to give some direction on how to manage it."

While Christensen could not comment on the implications of the request, he admitted it "would change the scope of the project, which will take some consideration." Van Tighem was cautious about whether or not he was optimistic about a funding approval.

"It has been in discussion with the people involved in the mine remediation and the discussion has not been negative," he said.

An Aboriginal Affairs spokesperson told *Yellowknife* the department wasn't prepared to comment at press time.



Dennis Kefalas

Monday, February 27, 2012

Yellowknife told "no" to inclusion of pipeline in Giant Mine project



Be the first of your friends to like this.

Monday, February 27, 2012 - 3:51 PM

Yellowknife, N.W.T. - The city's plan to replace the submarine potable water pipeline from the Yellowknife River will not be part of the Giant Mine Remediation Project's environmental assessment.

Friday, November 16, 2012

Yk Bay water too risky: MLA



Giant Mine arsenic stores pose unacceptable threat, says Bromley



MLA fears arsenic in water

Mayor says drinking water from Yellowknife Bay still an option

Svjetlana Mlinarevic

Northern News Services

Published Friday, November 16, 2012

SOMBA K'E/YELLOWKNIFE

A plan to move the city's water source to Yellowknife Bay is still on the table and that's a cause of concern for one MLA.

The submarine water line that runs eight kilometres along the bottom of Yellowknife Bay from Pumphouse No. 2 on the Yellowknife River to Pumphouse No. 1 on 48 Street was built in 1969 and would cost \$10 million to replace versus \$2 million to draw Yellowknife's water supply directly from Yellowknife Bay.

Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley fears the city will choose the cheaper option downstream of Baker Creek, where arsenic trioxide from decades of roasting gold ore at Giant Mine is still being emitted into the bay.

"The biggest concern is that there's a new water source being planned for the city which is now downstream of (Giant Mine)," said Bromley.

"Previous to that, it will have been upstream. (The city has) not done any studies on the flow and currents as to where that water will be in relation to the water intake."

Federal government guidelines state that the maximum allowable concentration of total arsenic in drinking water is 10 parts per billion. Yellowknife Bay is currently at three parts per billion with the highest concentration recorded at 6.5 parts per billion, according to a city study from May 10, 2011.

But only four days later, Baker Creek overflowed its banks and into a tailings pond at Giant Mine before re-entering the creek and into Yellowknife Bay. Water sampling on May 16 showed arsenic levels in the creek 700 times the acceptable level for drinking water.

Newly elected Mayor Mark Heyck acknowledges that the city is still considering moving its water intake to Yellowknife Bay.



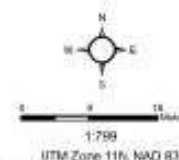
Yellow Text – Sediment Total Arsenic Concentration **Natural Background Ave – 150,000 ppb**



Legend

- Sampling Locations
- Underground Infrastructure

Downmapping from Natural Resources
Canada, Curved Database, 1:50,000
scale, 2010. All Rights Reserved.



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City of Yellowknife

Yellowknife Bay Arsenic Speciation Sampling

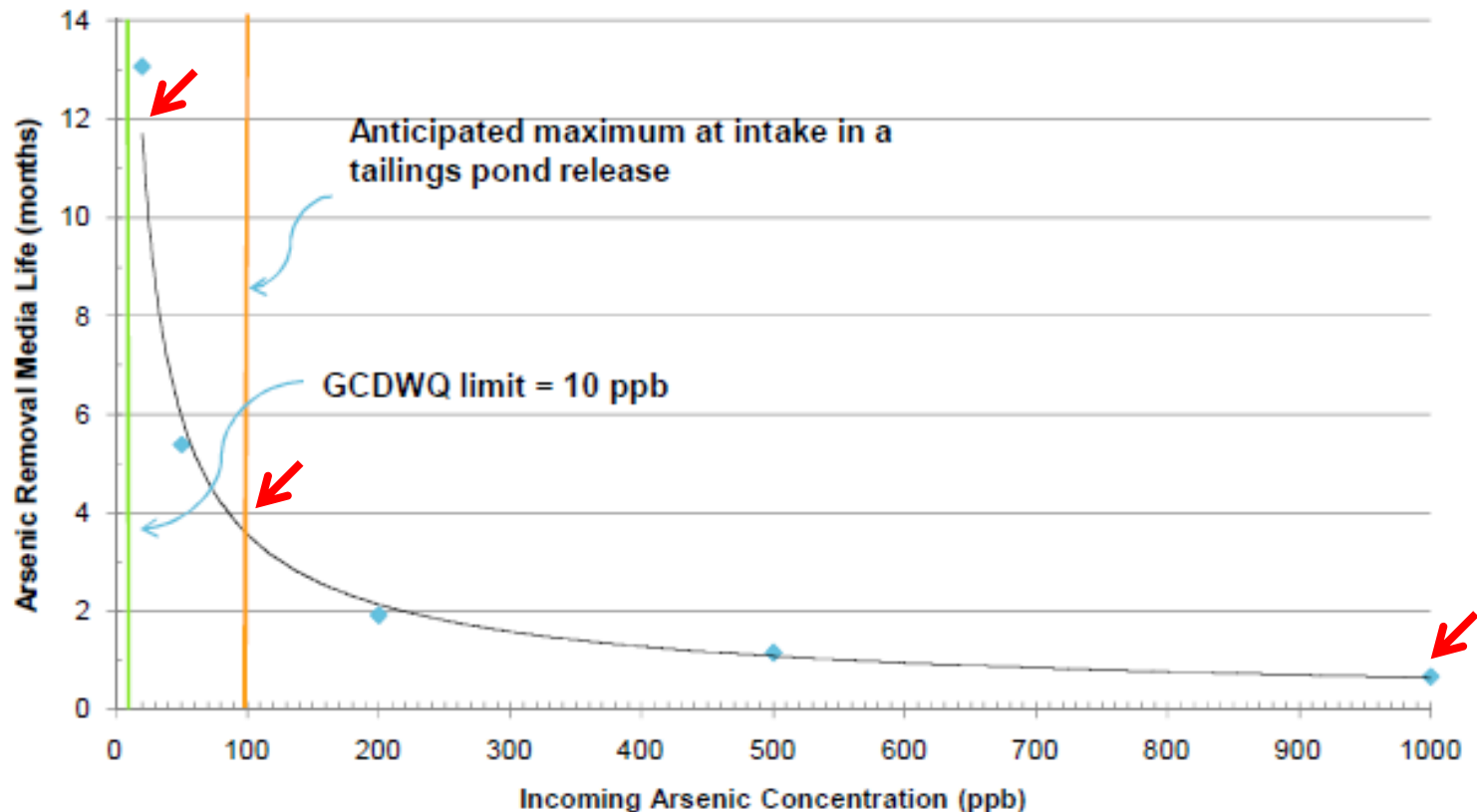
November 2010
Project 60147475

AECOM

Figure 1



Estimate Media Life



May 4, 2013





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A	REPORT DATE (MONTH - DAY - YEAR) 05-04-13	REPORT TIME 2010	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SPILL REPORT OR <input type="checkbox"/> UPDATE # TO THE ORIGINAL SPILL REPORT		REPORT NUMBER 13-136
B	OCCURRENCE DATE (MONTH - DAY - YEAR) 05-04-13		OCCURRENCE TIME		
C	LAND USE PERMIT NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)		WATER LICENSE NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)		
D	GEOGRAPHIC PLACE NAME OR DISTANCE AND DIRECTION FROM THE NEAREST LOCATION GIANT MINE			REGION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NORTH <input type="checkbox"/> WEST <input type="checkbox"/> EAST <input type="checkbox"/> SOUTH <input type="checkbox"/> ADJACENT JURISDICTION OR	
E	LATITUDE DEGREES MINUTES SECONDS 62-29-54		LONGITUDE DEGREES MINUTES SECONDS 114-21-39		
F	RESPONSIBLE PARTY OR VESSEL NAME (DECK) DETON'CHO/NANA JOINT VENT		RESPONSIBLE PARTY ADDRESS OR OFFICE LOCATION Box 2951, YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A2R2		
G	AIP CONTRACTOR INVOLVED No		CONTRACTOR ADDRESS OR OFFICE LOCATION N/A		
H	PRODUCT(S) SPILLED CLAY SEDIMENT		QUANTITY IN LITERS (GALLONS OR CUBIC METRES) UNKNOWN		U.I. NUMBER
	SECOND PRODUCT SPILLED (IF APPLICABLE) N/A		QUANTITY IN LITERS (GALLONS OR CUBIC METRES) N/A		U.I. NUMBER
I	SPILL SOURCE RUNOFF WATER		SPILL CAUSE FAILED BERM		AREA OF CONTAMINATION (CIRCUMFERENCE METRES) UNKNOWN
J	FACTORS AFFECTING SPILL OR RECOVERY SOFT GROUND CONDITIONS		DESCRIBE ANY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED NONE		HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT NONE
K	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, COMMENTS, ACTIONS PROPOSED OR TAKEN TO CONTROL, REDUCE OR REMOVE OR ISOLATE SPILLED PRODUCT AND CONTAMINATED MATERIALS BERM CONSTRUCTED IN SUMMER 2012 TO RETAIN WATER IN C1 CLAY BORROW PIT. WATER BREACHED THE BERM & DOWNCUT INTO CLAY WITH HIGH VELOCITY THEN UNDERCUT A ROCK BERM. FLOW TO BAKER CREEK. INSPECTOR NOTIFIED.				

May 6, 2013



NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY of the NWT

NEWS ABOUT US PROGRAMMING BLOG STORE CONTACT JOB ALERTS HOME



GIANT MINE'S CLAY BARRIER FAILS, MELT WATER SEEP OUT

Author: **CKLB News** / Monday, May 06, 2013 / Categories: **News**

Rate this article: No rating ★★★★★

Contaminated melt water from Giant Mine has seeped into Baker Creek.

The snow on site is melting quickly and, over the weekend, surface water broke through a clay barrier.

Operations Manager Jane Amphlett says there was an obvious flaw in the construction of the barrier

"Well it was constructed out of a clay material and so obviously the material kind of failed so the clay became soupy and the melt water was able to make its way through the clay material."

« May 2013 »

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		


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Bob McLeod Clayton Konisenta
Forest Fire GNWT Hay River
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May 13, 2013



NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY of the NWT

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TEST RESULTS ARE IN, ARSENIC IN BAKER CREEK

Author: [CKLB News](#) / Monday, May 13, 2013 / Categories: [News](#)

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Test results are in after [melt water from Giant Mine seeped into Baker Creek](#).

Several samples of water were taken and tested.

At the highest point, 0.391 milligrams per litre of arsenic was found.

They're allowed to discharge up to 0.5, so these results are still below the standard set by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

This doesn't mean the quality of water is at drinking standards.

The water was not drinkable before the May 5th spill, and it still isn't.

The arsenic in Baker Creek is about 40 times what Health Canada guidelines suggest for drinking water.

But the federal government says this amount will have no effect on the environment.

They say they will not treat the water or remove the arsenic until they get a new water treatment plant, which they won't get until the project goes through the regulatory process. And there's no estimated time for when that is

Giant Mine team does not know how much water was released into Baker Creek last week and they don't know whether the arsenic was naturally occurring or a product of the arsenic trioxide on site.

iman Kassam / CKLB News

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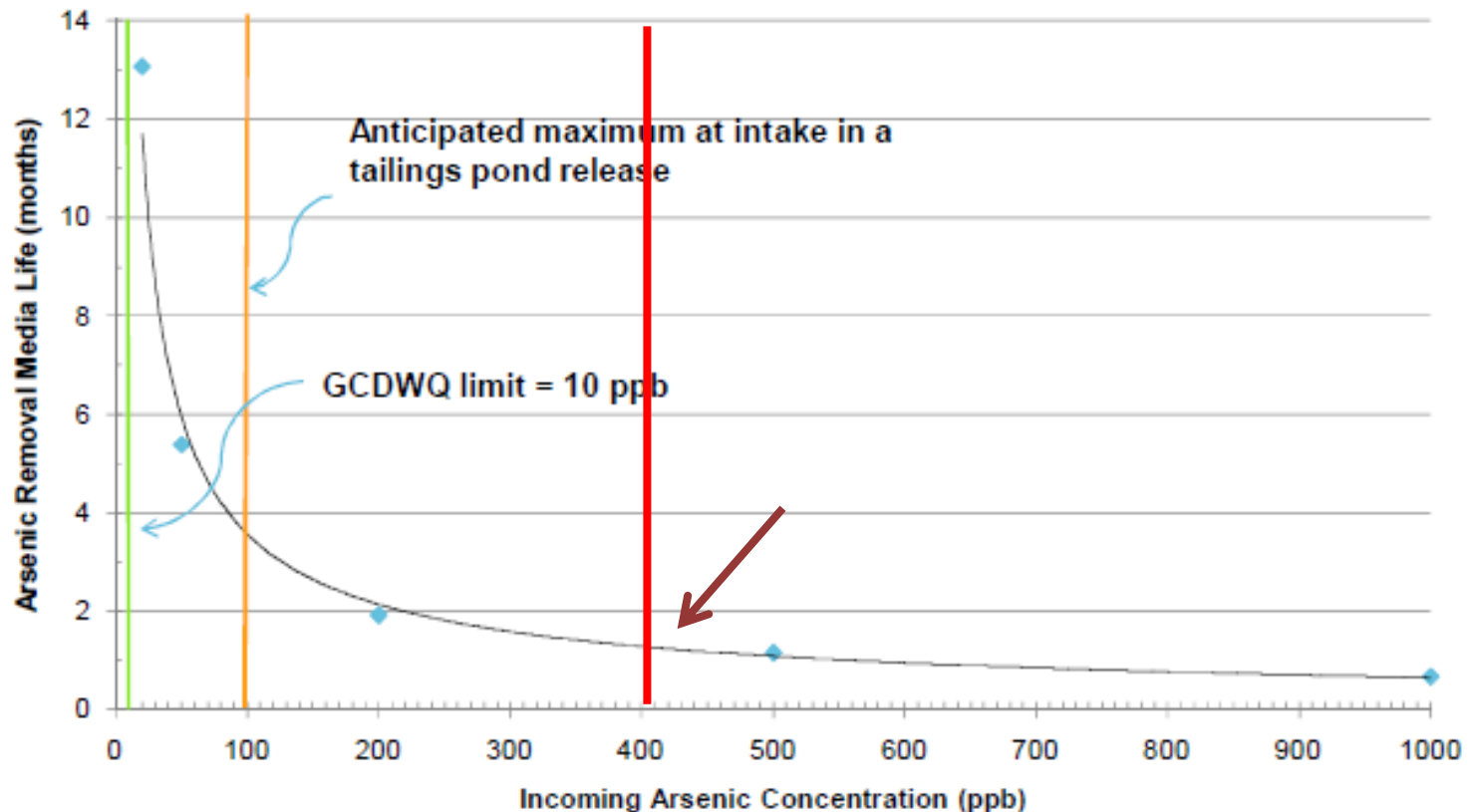
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Hazardous Waste



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Hazardous waste is considered a dangerous contaminant that is no longer being used for its intended purpose. These wastes have the potential to harm human health or the environment. They can range from paints, oils and solvents to acids, heavy-metal containing sludges and pesticides. Hazardous wastes must be handled or disposed of properly to prevent harm to human health and safety and to the environment. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources can provide advice and guidance on the proper way to manage, store and dispose of hazardous wastes.

ENR holds Household Hazardous Waste Collection events in various NWT communities to ensure hazardous waste is properly disposed of and to prevent it from entering community landfills. We take things like fuels, solvents, paints, pesticides, fertilizers, batteries (of less than 1kg), household cleaners, aerosol cans, thermostats and other mercury items, and compact fluorescent bulbs.

Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) are products used in your home, workplace and places of leisure and recreation. They can be flammable, corrosive, explosive or toxic, and harmful to you and the environment if they are not handled properly. This brochure will help residents properly store, handle and dispose of household hazardous wastes.

Environmentally Friendly Household Cleaners are homemade, alternative cleaners that are less toxic, and just as effective as commercial cleaners. By using these cleaners, fewer harmful chemicals are flushed down drains and into our waterways. This is healthier for you and the environment.

This document conforms to all federal and provincial transport and environmental legislation.
Ce document se conforme aux lois fédérales et provinciales sur le transport et l'environnement.

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Movement Document/ Modified Reference No.
N° de référence du document de l'Instrument d'ensemble

A Generator / consigneur Producteur / expéditeur				B Carrier Transporteur				C Receiver / consignee Réceptionnaire / destinataire			
Registration No. / Provincial ID No. N° d'immatriculation - d'Id. provincial				Registration No. / Provincial ID No. N° d'immatriculation - d'Id. provincial				Registration No. / Provincial ID No. N° d'immatriculation - d'Id. provincial			
Company name / Nom de l'entreprise				Company name / Nom de l'entreprise				Receiver / consignee information same as in Part A. Les renseignements du réceptionnaire / destinataire est le même qu'à la Partie A.			
Mailing address / Adresse postale				Mailing address / Adresse postale				City / Ville			
E-mail / Courriel électronique				E-mail / Courriel électronique				Tel. No. / N° de tél.			
Receiving site address / Adresse du lieu de réception				Vehicle / Véhicule				Port of exit / Point de sortie			
City / Ville				Trailer - Flat car No. 1 1 ^{er} remorque - wagon				Port of exit / Point de sortie			
Intended Receiver / consignee Réceptionnaire / destinataire prévu				Port of entry / Point d'entrée				Port of exit / Point de sortie			
Mailing address / Adresse postale				Carrier Certification / I certify that I have received waste recyclable material from the generator/consignor for delivery to the receiver/consignee as set out in Part A and that the information contained in Part B is complete and correct. Attestation du transporteur - J'atteste avoir reçu les déchets ou matières recyclables du producteur / expéditeur en vue de leur livraison au réceptionnaire / destinataire, tels qu'ils figurent à la partie A et que les renseignements inscrits à la partie B sont exacts et complets.				Name of authorized person (print) Nom de l'agent autorisé (caractères d'imprimé)			
E-mail / Courriel électronique				Year / Année				Month / Mois			
Receiving site address / Adresse du lieu de réception				Day / Jour				Signature			
City / Ville				Quantity shipped / Quantité expédiée				Units / Unités			
Pkg. code / Code ppi				Class / Classe				UN No. / N° UN			
Shipping name / Appellation - régime régime				Packing / emballage				Quantity shipped / Quantité expédiée			
Class / Classe				Units / Unités				Packaging / Conditionnement			
UN No. / N° UN				Customs code / Code des douanes				Quantity received / Quantité reçue			
Packing / emballage				Customs code / Code des douanes				Units / Unités			
Quantity shipped / Quantité expédiée				Customs code / Code des douanes				Comments / Commentaires			
Units / Unités				Customs code / Code des douanes				Handling Code / Code de manipulation			
Customs code / Code des douanes				Customs code / Code des douanes				Shipment / Expédition			
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YK, Ndilo, Detah deserve answers!

Q: How expensive are the filters?

Q: Do you need a different filter for each type of toxin (one filter for mercury; one filter for arsenic; one filter for lead, etc.)

Q: How many filters would the City have to stock?

Q: How much will it cost to dispose of the filters which will then be Hazardous Waste?

More questions to answer ...

- Q: Is the City going to spend more money over a 50-year period than the \$10 million it would cost to replace the submarine pipeline before 2020?
- Q: Is the City really going to save money by drawing drinking water from Yellowknife Bay?
- Q: Why take the risk given the history of toxic spills?

Even more unknowns to answer ...

- Q: How will the City prepare for “large spills” of toxins into Yellowknife Bay?
- Q: How will the City protect the drinking water from unknown spills (they don’t know when the spill started)?
- Q: Has the City prepared an Emergency Plan for a catastrophic tailings pond spill?

REMINDER

