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Copies to: Mr. J.G. McNiven
Dr. O.L. Stanton
Mr. A.K. Muir
Dr. K.C. Charron
Dr. P.E. Moore
Dr. K. Kay
Mr. J.R. Menzies
Maj. D.M. MacKay
Commissioner, N.W.T.

National Archives of Canada RG29 2342 455-10-13 Vol. 1

Mr. LeCapelain
Mr. Wright
Mr. K.J. Christie
Mr. L.H. Phinney
Mr. W.G. Brown
Mr. C.S. Parsons
Mr. W.G. Jewitt

Ottawa, 19 June, 1951.

S. Homulos, Esq.,
Mining Inspector,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Homulos:

ROASTER FUMES - NEGUS MINES

Thank you for your letter of the 13th of June enclosing a copy of Mr. J.G. McNiven's letter of the 7th of June advising us of the plans of the Negus Mines to install a Dorroco vertical type roaster and an arsenic collection plant of either the Con impinger type or the Peabody scrubber type -- the intention being to impound the slurry in a tight underground compartment.

It is unnecessary to review the discussion that took place when Con Mine adopted their present methods of storage as you have a complete record on file. Several meetings have taken place here with representatives of interested mining companies and representatives of the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. At the last meeting the recent sad fatality was discussed and measures that should be taken to prevent any further accidents of this kind. Those in attendance agreed that the storing of dried arsenic as planned by Giant in a permafrost area is the safest method. The Department of National Health and Welfare are not completely satisfied that the Con method of using depression for storing slurry is the answer. They want tests made of surrounding drilled holes at frequent periods to see if the ground water is contaminated. I am sending you a copy of the minutes of the recent meeting with a copy of the letter to the Medical Health Officer, Dr. O.L. Stanton.

In all our discussions with the mining companies and our technical officers, we have stressed that responsibility for selecting methods of collection of arsenic trioxide and methods

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of storage in order to protect public health is one for the mining companies to assume. In other words they must prove to the satisfaction of the Medical Health Officer and our technical advisers that their methods are safe from the public health standpoint.

Mr. A.K. Muir has been requested to expedite the construction of his Cottrell Unit to minimize the possibility of a recurrence of the conditions that prevailed this spring.

I am quite satisfied that the Deputy Minister would not agree to roasting operations being commenced at another mine until a collection and disposal system has been adopted which will meet with the approval of the Medical Health Officer, the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Therefore, I am taking this matter up at once with these authorities and asking for their advice. At the same time I am asking for the views of Chief Mining Inspector Christie.

Yours very truly,

G. E. B. SINCLAIR

(Sgd.) G.E.B. Sinclair

G.E.B. Sinclair,
Director.