

THE CONSOLIDATED MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED

Trail, B.C.
July 27th, 1950.

R. A. Gibson, Esq.,
Deputy Commissioner,
Administration of the
Northwest Territories,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

Con Arsenic Disposal

Referring to your letter of July 21st, I am expecting to receive from Con this week plans and specifications for the collection of the Con arsenic slurry in a rock basin immediately to the east of Crank Lake, the old tailing disposal area. Our proposal will be forwarded to you as soon as they are received. The basin has an area somewhat less than two acres and low points in the rock will be sealed by concrete walls resting on bed-rock. The rock itself is being examined by our geologists to determine whether or not seepage to the mine or to other drainage basins could occur and if it could, what must be done to prevent seepage. The basin will act as a settling pond and clear solution will be pumped back for use in further collection of arsenic in the impinger unit. We anticipate that natural evaporation will dispose of normal precipitation and the accumulation during part of the winter when pumping may not be possible. However, to take care of any possible excess of solution, provision will be made to treat any overflow with lime so as to render it harmless. ?

Provided the examination of the basin shows it to be adequate, we consider this proposal constitutes the best solution of a difficult problem. Moreover, the impinger method of collection forms a substantial contribution to the industry since it is lower in both installation and operating costs and more effective in the collection of arsenic than the usual electrical precipitation installations.

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In reference to the last paragraph of your letter, we realize that the contamination of nearby lakes is a serious problem and our previous proposal to bury the sludge in the old tailings area in Crank Lake is unsuitable because of certain unforeseen conditions. However, I understand the sludge in the Crank Lake pits is drying up and when the new basin is in operation the sludge in the pits will be transferred to the basin. The arsenic disseminated in the Yellowknife area by the Con until the installation of the impinger unit last year and by the Giant, which will continue until their precipitation unit is installed, is likely to continue as a problem until it is removed by rain and run-off waters.

I should like to assure you again of our realization of the serious nature of the arsenic problem and our active concern with its solution.

Yours very truly,

"W. G. Jewitt"

Manager of Mines.

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