

## DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Dr. K. C. Charron,  
Chief, Industrial Health Division,  
Jackson Building.

OUR FILE NO. 455-10-13REF. YOUR FILE NO.  
DATED

FROM: Chief, Industrial Health Laboratory.

DATE: Sept. 17, 1951.

SUBJECT:

The Situation at Negus Mine

Negus Mine recently asked N.W.T. for permission to store arsenic sludge underground for a temporary period, as they have found it impossible to prepare a surface storage basin before the freeze-up. This permission was granted early in the month.

Following my return from Yellowknife in July, a meeting was held in Mr. Sinclair's office as a result of which Negus Mine were informed that, subject to their own responsibility, they might proceed to install the Con system of collection with a surface storage basin. I was shown a draft letter for the signature of the Deputy Minister of Resources and Development setting forth the above and stressing that roasting should not be commenced without the accompanying collection method.

Attached hereto is the detailed report on the situation at Yellowknife at the time of my visit, and this report agrees in all essential details with similar reports rendered by Giant Mine's inspector and Dr. Downes, the representative of the Bureau of Mines.

Mr. Sinclair's Department has not received any official statement of our views beyond that expressed verbally at the above-mentioned meeting; the reason being that we were all in accord as to what should be done. In view of this most recent request by Negus to temporarily store underground and having in mind the fairly extensive job involving preparing Con's method of collection, I now suggest that a letter be drafted for the Deputy's signature, summarizing the Department's point of view and stressing that roasting should not be commenced at this mine under any circumstances without adequate collection facilities being also put into operation.

K.K.  
K.K.