

Environment  
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October 27, 1997

Larry Connell  
Kemess Mines Inc.  
P.O. Box 3519  
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Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

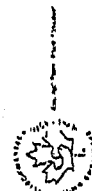
**BY FAX (604) 523-2100**

Dear Mr. Connell:

Thank you for your comments on the draft Workshop Report. As indicated in the attached correspondence, we have now finalized the Report summarizing the discussions and recommendations from the ***Workshop on Controlling Arsenic Releases to the Environment in the Northwest Territories*** which was held July 14 - 15 in Yellowknife.

We plan to forward our recommendations, based on the Workshop Report and the earlier Task Force Report, to senior managers in Environment Canada and Health Canada in early November. Upon receiving their endorsement, the recommendations will be forwarded to the Ministers of Environment and Health before Christmas for their consideration.

We anticipate proposing a two-phased approach to negotiating a legally binding agreement with Royal Oak Mines Inc. for the purpose of achieving control over arsenic releases to the environment from the Giant Yellowknife Mine. The first phase would involve an agreement to address releases of arsenic to the air from the Giant Mine gold roasting plant. The second phase would involve examining the possibility of extending the agreement to include such issues as releases of sulphur dioxide to air, underground storage of arsenic trioxide, waterborne releases from the tailings pond, etc. While the regulatory requirements of participating agencies could not be waived in such a process, it would offer the opportunity to address a number of issues in a coordinated manner.



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The first phase would involve representatives of the communities of Yellowknife, federal government departments, and the territorial and municipal governments in the negotiation process. The second phase would require the cooperation of all regulatory agencies in both the negotiation phase and the harmonization of the regulatory process.

The cooperation of Royal Oak Mines Inc. is imperative to the success of the proposed approach. An early indication of the degree to which your senior management is willing to participate in a negotiation process would be appreciated. As we bring our recommendations forward to senior management and the Minister, an understanding of your willingness to participate in the process will be of primary importance. In anticipation of a favorable response, we look forward to working with you in the near future to achieve a satisfactory resolution to the arsenic issue in Yellowknife.

Yours sincerely,



Laura Johnston

c.c. John Stard Royal Oak Mine, Yellowknife FAX 873 2000

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TO: **WORKSHOP INVITEES and PUBLIC FORUM PARTICIPANTS**

**FINAL REPORT**

**WORKSHOP ON CONTROLLING ARSENIC RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT  
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Attached for your information is the Final Report summarizing the discussions and recommendations from the ***Workshop on Controlling Arsenic Releases to the Environment in the Northwest Territories*** which was held July 14 - 15 in Yellowknife. We would like to thank all those who participated in the Workshop: your contribution to the exchange of information and viewpoints was instrumental to the successful development of workshop recommendations.

We anticipate that recommendations, based on the Workshop Report and the earlier Task Force Report, will be forwarded to senior managers in Environment Canada and Health Canada in early November. Upon receiving their endorsement, the recommendations will be forwarded to the Ministers of Environment and Health before Christmas for their consideration.

We will make every effort to keep you informed of the progress on this initiative throughout the coming months. If you would like a copy of the original Task Force Report or have comments on the enclosed report, please contact either Ed Collins (867) 669-4726 or me (867) 669-4725. We look forward to working with you in the near future to achieve a satisfactory resolution to the arsenic issue in Yellowknife.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Johnston

**Canada**

