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## Complaints over ~~arsenic~~ dumping by mines in North to be addressed

*YELLOWKNIFE -- Complaints about a gold mine that has dumped arsenic and sulphur dioxide into the North for generations could lead to new national regulations on the pollutants.*

"We cannot use the water now ... plants cannot grow in the contaminated soils," Isadore Tsetta, a Yellowknives Dene elder, told environmental hearings last May. "Giant mines and Con mines have ruined the water and we cannot use it any more."

Federal Environment Minister Sheila Copps has promised to release proposals by November for controlling emissions at the Giant mine on the outskirts of Yellowknife.

Enforceable regulations on releasing arsenic into the air are likely to be among those proposals, said Laura Johnston of the environment department in Yellowknife.

"Air emissions are one of the blanks in terms of there not being regulations."

The territorial government has also promised regulations on sulphur dioxide emissions by 1996, said Emory Paquin of the environmental protection department.

The Dene have stopped eating fish from the area, says band environmental consultant Susan Qurik.

Royal Oak, the owner of Giant mine, is working with the government on controlling the mine's emissions, said company official Graham Eacott.

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