

Ottawa, December 5, 1963.

Dr. D. J. Jones, M.D.,

Chairman,

Yellowknife Mines Ltd.,

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Don,

Arsenic Surveillance Program - Yellowknife, N.W.T.

As a result of the efforts of the mines in the Yellowknife area, the amount of arsenic being released into the air has been greatly reduced over the past few years. However, the periodic and, at times, unexplainable rise in the arsenic content of the domestic water supplies has been a matter of concern and it is felt by us and by officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare that a continuing program of sampling is essential. The purposes of this program will be to ensure that present preventative measures are operating satisfactorily and that the very minimum amount of arsenic is escaping from the plants.

At the request of this Department, the Occupational Health Division and the Public Health Engineering Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare have prepared recommendations with regard to a continuing program of testing for arsenic. From these recommendations, we have prepared a schedule for the guidance of our Mining Inspector. A copy of this schedule is attached.

You will note from the schedule that water sampling will be carried out by our own staff and the analyses will be done in the Yellowknife assay office. The stack sampling, however, will have to be done by your own staff, as will the monthly report on arsenic being discharged in solution to waste.

We should appreciate your comments on this schedule. I realize that it will involve more work for your staff but I can see no other way. I might add that the recommendations for stack sampling were prepared by Dr. Morris Katz who is one of the foremost experts on air pollution in Canada.

Your assistance and cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

As a matter of interest, Mr. Melville Brown, formerly Mine Superintendent at Renabie Gold Mines in Ontario has accepted the position of Mining Inspector at Yellowknife and will arrive sometime in January. The position had been offered to David Smith, formerly Chief Inspector for the Mines but he turned it down at the last minute.

Very truly yours,
J. H. [illegible]