





Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

**ACTION
REQUEST**

**FICHE DE
SERVICE**

TO:  
Director General
Program Management
Medical Services Branch

FILE NO. -- DOSSIER N°

DATE

July 27 1976

FROM -- DE

Regional Director
Northwest Territories Region

☐ PLEASE CALL
PRIÈRE D'APPELER

TEL NO. -- N° DE TEL.

EXT. -- POSTE

☐ WANTS TO SEE YOU
DÉSIRE VOUS VOIR

DATE

TIME -- HEURE

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN
DOIT RAPPELER

CALL RECEIVED BY
MESSAGE REÇU PAR

☐ ACTION
DONNER SUITE

☐ APPROVAL
APPROBATION

☐ NOTE & RETURN
NOTER ET RETOURNER

☐ COMMENTS
COMMENTAIRES

☐ DRAFT REPLY
PROJET DE RÉPONSE

☐ NOTE & FORWARD
NOTER ET FAIRE SUIVRE

☐ MAKE
FAIRE ----- COPIES

☐ SIGNATURE

☐ NOTE & FILE
NOTER ET CLASSER

No
by Luck
noted
P.A.



Health and Welfare
Canada

Santé et Bien-être social
Canada

Medical Services
Northwest Territories Region
14th Floor Baker Centre
10025 106 Street
Edmonton, Alta
T5J 1H2

July 27, 1976

| ACTION | | PA | DATE |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|------|
| THORPE | | <i>[initials]</i> | |
| INFORMATION | | | |
| Hicks | | | |
| SINCLAIR | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Mr. R. Hornell,
Regional Director, Resources,
Dept of Indian and Northern Development,
P O Box 1500
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Hornell:

I am directed to call your attention to an incident concerning a report of an investigation carried out in 1975 on aspects of the operation of Giant Mine, Yellowknife, N.W.T. My Minister, the Honorable Marc Lalonde, has been somewhat embarrassed by a breakdown in communications, between this Department and the management of Giant Mines. In part the delinquency rests upon my Region, and I do not seek to excuse this failure.

I believe the clearest explanation of the problem which has arisen will be provided by forwarding you copies of relevant correspondence and I accordingly enclose:

1. A copy of a memorandum addressed to me by Senior Consultant, Public Service Health, September 24, 1975.
2. A letter addressed to Dr. Eaton and copied inter alia to my Minister, dated July 7 1976.
3. A copy of a letter by Dr. Eaton addressed to Mr. W. A. Moore, Mine Manager, Giant Yellowknife Mines dated July 20 1976.

Although I believe no further action is feasible to repair the damage you may find it appropriate to make the officer or officers concerned aware of the consequences of this communication breakdown for their information and education.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

F. J. Covill, M.B., B.S., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Regional Director

cc - Director General, Program Management, M.S.

- Dr. R.D.P. Eaton, Northern Medical Research Unit

Pa

To Dr. Hicks for any necessary action

850-5-12

July 27, 1976

[Signature]

No action necessary

P.A.

Your file

Votre référence

Our file

Notre référence

151-1-5 N (N1)

9/8/76

rec'd. July 30/76

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MEDICAL SERVICES
HEADQUARTERS

JUL 30 10 25 AM '70

QUARTIERS GENERAUX
SERVICES MEDICAUX

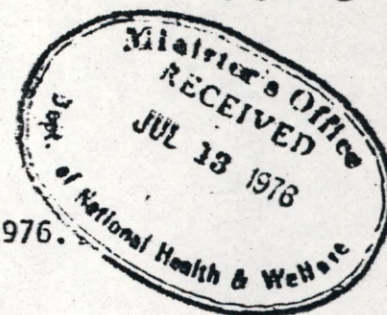
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| HOURS | | |
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GIANT YELLOWKNIFE MINES LIMITED

YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

XOE 1HO
CANADA

50-8-2



July 7, 1976.

Dr. R. D. P. Eaton,
Program Medical Officer,
N.W.T. Region,
Medical Services Branch,
Dept. of Health and Welfare,
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Dr. Eaton:

Last July, two consultants, Reg Ross and R. Rispler, from the Dept. of Health and Welfare, Ottawa, paid a visit to the Mill at Giant to do a dust survey. They were treated with courtesy and given every assistance needed to complete their work.

Last week we learned that they were returning to Giant to conduct a similar survey. We thought it strange that we hadn't heard about the results of their first survey yet, when a copy of their 1975 report was pushed under the door of the Mill Superintendent's office on June 30th.

This week Messrs. Ross and Rispler arrived at Giant. We learned that their report on their 1975 visit had been completed in July of last year, and that a copy had been marked for the attention of Giant. We also learned that Local 803, U.S.W.A. (the Giant Local) had received a copy of the report last year, but evidently it was not considered important enough for Health & Welfare to send one to Giant.

Had the report been unfavourable, I'm sure that Giant would have been the first to be notified.

This attitude of "using" industry as a testing ground, as a whipping post, seems typical of government officials and Ministers generally. It would appear that the object of the game is to show industry in an unfavourable light in every instance, at every opportunity, forgetting that without a healthy industry, there would be fewer jobs, fewer tax dollars to blow on non-productive programs, and indeed, to pay for our government bureaucracy.

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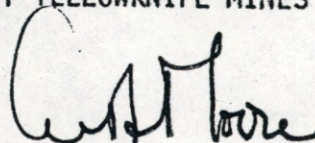
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555 1212.

This company expects to, and is, indeed, eager to conform with increasingly higher standards of health in the working conditions in its plant. But we expect to be treated as partners in this endeavour and not be ignored. It hurts us to be treated in this fashion. We see Labour, which hasn't contributed a cent towards research in industrial health in the area being toadied up to by government, socialists, professors, and the government news media, while the efforts of companies, that have poured an increasingly greater amount of their technology and dollars into improvements in working conditions are largely ignored. It is a sad commentary on the state of government-industry relations in Canada.

Yours very truly,

GIANT YELLOWKNIFE MINES LIMITED.



W. A. Moore,
Mine Manager.

WAM*mb

c.c. Marc Lalonde, Minister Health & Welfare ✓
Joe Clarke, Prog. Conserv. H.Q.
John H. Parker
D.J.E.

Giant yellowknife 873-2512.
No.

Dr. R. D. P. Eaton
Northern Medical Research Unit
Charles Cammell Hospital
12815 - 115 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

July 20, 1976

Mr. W. A. Moore
Mine Manager
Giant Yellowknife Mines Limited
Yellowknife, N. W. T.
XUE 180

Dear Mr. Moore,

I was most distressed to receive your letter of July 7th, which for reason of a slightly deficient address did not reach me until today (July 20th).

Though I am no longer acting in the position of Program Medical Officer, having returned to my former position in the Northern Medical Research Unit, I am replying personally since I enjoyed such cordial relations with your predecessor during the time of our association.

I am frankly unable to understand why a copy of the previous report was not received by you.

I personally carried, as I remember, six copies of this report to Yellowknife the day after we received them in Edmonton. Distribution included the Mine Managers at Con and Giant, the Union local, and the D. I. N. A. mines inspector, Mr. Hal Brown.

Because of a requirement for my attendance at a deadline for a meeting all copies were handed by me either to Mr. Brown or Mr. Patrick - and at this time I cannot remember which - in the D. I. N. A. office in the Ballance building who agreed to circulate them on my behalf.

I was at some pains to obtain assurance that this would be done without delay, not because I thought Giant mine would not get a copy but at the time there was a confusion as to which Union was properly representing the mine employees and we were concerned that the Union representative would be missed.

The names of the intended recipients were noted by Mr. Brown (or Mr. Patrick) and I watched him write them down.

Your letter of today is the first intimation that the report was not delivered as expected.

This quite obviously does not exonerate me as I patently failed to carry out completely a task I had undertaken. However I hope that you will realise that Medical Services as a whole cannot be faulted since all concerned, and especially Messrs. Ross and Riepler, had made every effort to ensure that the reports would be delivered promptly.

Your last but one paragraph is perhaps unfortunate in that it voices a criticism of Medical Services which could hardly be less true. Our department is and will always be concerned to work with industry to achieve total cooperation in health matters.

However I can fully appreciate your obvious annoyance and I can only apologise for having been instrumental in causing it.

Yours sincerely,

H.D.F. Eaton, M.B., Ch.B., D.F.R.,
Ph.D.
Northern Medical Research Unit

Dr. F. J. Covill,
Regional Director,
Northwest Territories Region,
Medical Services Branch.
Attention: Dr. R.D.P. Eaton

Senior Consultant,
Public Service Health,
Headquarters, Medical Services.

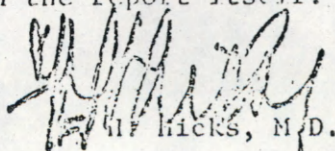
SUBJECT
OBJET

Arsenic Exposure in Workplace Areas
of Yellowknife Gold Mines and Mills -
a report dated July 1975

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|---------------------------------------|
| SECURITY CLASSIFICATION / DE SÉCURITÉ |
| COURTIL / N. REFERENCE |
| B-1.2 |
| YOUR FILE / V. REFERENCE |
| DATE |
| September 24, 1975. |

Fifteen copies of the above report are being sent to you under separate cover. This investigation was undertaken cooperatively by Indian and Northern Affairs Department personnel and our MSB Occupational Health Unit. Accordingly, will you kindly make arrangements with Mr. M. L. Brown of INA in Yellowknife to distribute two copies each to: Government of the Northwest Territories; Mr. Hawes, Area Council President, NWT United Steelworkers; Mr. Emery, Manager, Giant Yellowknife Mines Ltd.; and Mr. MacPhail, Manager, Con Mine. As you know, Mr. M. L. Brown is the Regional Mining Engineer, Northern Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Yellowknife.

Please let us know if additional copies are needed, or if there are any questions or comments on the report itself.


H. Hicks, M.D.

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