



850-5-X751 P.A.
sent to DM
25-10-76

MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
AND
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MINISTRE DE LA
SANTÉ NATIONALE ET DU BIEN ÊTRE SOCIAL
ET
MINISTRE CHARGÉ DE LA SITUATION DE LA FEMME

OTTAWA, K1A 0K9

Mr. W.A. Moore,
Mine Manager,
Giant Yellowknife Mines Limited,
YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories.
X0E 1H0

Dear Mr. Moore:

It is regrettable that a further delay has been experienced in communicating the results of work undertaken by my Department to those individuals concerned. As a result of your letter of October 4, I have had the matter fully investigated. As a result of the investigation, I have to report a delay here in Ottawa in completing the examinations of the specimens received in April. The delay was due to a breakdown of equipment in the laboratory and the eventual discovery that repairs could not be made locally. The specimens were then sent to a private laboratory for analysis. I offer this information in the way of an explanation and not an excuse. The decision to make other arrangements should have been taken much sooner.

The results were sent to our Northern Region on July 23. They were immediately made available to Dr. P. O'Donoghue, who was acting as the physician to Giant Yellowknife Mines and who had taken the specimens originally.

... 2

Mr. W.A. Moore

It is standard practice in my Department to send the results of clinical and laboratory tests to the medical authority of a company or to a private physician for interpretation to their patients. I must therefore disclaim responsibility for any delay subsequent to July, 1976.

My officers have again stressed the cordial relations and cooperation they have had with the Giant Yellowknife Mines management. I regret this second episode of a breakdown in communications most sincerely.

Yours truly,

Marc Lalonde.

FILE NO.: 850-5-X751 (FHH)
TYPED ON: OCTOBER 21, 1976,
DR. F.H. HICKS/am

Dr. Hicks:

There was no delay in
delivering Arsenic results
from our yellowknife zone
Headquarters to Dr. O'Donoghue.

Dr. Brett
Oct. 18/76

Brian Brett

Principal Medical Officer
Medical Services

Conseiller médical principal
Services médicaux

Date

15/10/76

TO
A

REMARKS - REMARQUES

Duff

① 1 'Hmagline is
medical doctor for
Grant Mines - on
contract.

② 2 teleconist
letter I believe will
supply substance
for a reply.

J. S. Main

TO
A
Dr. F.H. Hicks
Senior Consultant
Public Service Health
Medical Services Branch

FROM
DE
Dr. T.F. McCarthy
Medical Consultant
Occupational Health Unit
Medical Services Branch

SECURITY-CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ

OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE

YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE

DATE

October 13, 1976

SUBJECT
OBJET
GIANT YELLOWKNIFE MONES LIMITED: LETTER TO THE MINISTER

There is no doubt that there was a significant delay in examining the urine specimen referred to in the letter of October 14, 1976.

The specimens, as indicated in the letter, were collected in the period March 29th to April 14th.

The fan on our perchloric acid fume hood in the laboratory (which was by the way just beginning to be fully operative) broke down the last week in March.

J.W. Morin of DPW was advised April 9th and an order for repair was issued by our department to DPW.

No action was taken until early in May. Servant Electric picked up the defective motor in mid-May and promised repairs for the end of that month.

Servant later indicated that the motor was an unusual type and more time would be required and promised repairs by the end of June.

By the end of June no repairs had been made and the motor was returned to the U.S. Since it appeared that another long delay was likely, the specimens were then sent to a private laboratory for analysis.

The specimens analysis reported to us July 19th and the analysis sent by letter to Dr. Covell in Edmonton July 23rd. The delay from July 23rd to September 27th is with NWT region.

We had analyzed a total of 19 specimens, 16 employees and 3 repeat analyses on those having high levels. The remainder of the 35 specimens alluded to in the second paragraph of Mr. Moore's letter were never received here.

Tou

T.F. McCarthy, M.D.



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
A

Dr. E. L. Fischer,
Director, Medical Programs,
Northwest Territories Region.

FROM
DE

Programs Medical Officer,
Mackenzie Zone.

SUBJECT
OBJET

Letter from Giant Mine Manager to Honourable Minister,
National Health and Welfare Dated October 4, 1976

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
Confidential
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE
October 7, 1976.

1. The clinical examinations would never have started if I had not specifically reminded the Giant Mine management. At that time they were so concerned about arsenic surveillance that they could not find the letters I had sent them in January, and I had to give them copies.
2. It is quite untrue that Mr. Pawson called me every two weeks. The only telephone conversation I can recall with Mr. Pawson was when I called him to apologize for the delay and explain that the bottleneck was in Ottawa.
3. The statement that the laboratory took from April to July to analyze the urine samples is quite correct.
4. I find Mr. Moore's statement that "In September Mr. Pawson (his assistant) told him that the results were in Yellowknife but that someone was unwilling to release them to the company," difficult to understand because in August I was corresponding with him about the aforesaid results. Please see my letter of August 9. At that time I was under the impression that he had received a copy of the results from the Mine Medical Officer.
5. About 3 weeks ago Dr. O'Donoghue--in response to a request from myself--sent a copy of the results to Mine.
6. There can be no doubt that there have been delays, both in the laboratory and Dr. O'Donoghue's office. However, as until recently relations with the Giant Mine have been very friendly, I suspect Mr. Moore's letter is to impress the Union. (A new contract is under negotiation.)

C. R. Forrest,
Programs Medical Officer.

CRF:ea

Encl.

cc: Zone Director, Mackenzie Zone

DOCUMENT(S) WITHHELD

No. of Pages(s): ①

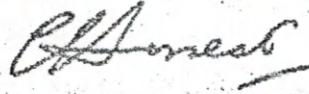
Title/Subject: Letter to Grant Yellowknife

Reason for Removal Personal Info

Date: Aug 9, 1976

I should like to take this opportunity of also reminding you that it is time for the routine examinations to be resumed.

Yours faithfully,



C. R. Forrest, M.D., M.R.C.P. (U.K.),
Programs Medical Officer.

CRF:ea

cc: Dr. P. O'Donoghue
Miss S. McInnes