

Minutes of a Special Meeting of
the Northwest Territories Council
conducted by telephone from the
office of the Deputy Commissioner
on Thursday, January 19, 1950.

Members consulted:

Dr. H. L. Keenleyside	- Commissioner
Mr. R. A. Gibson	- Deputy Commissioner
Cdr. L. C. Audette	- Member of Council
Major D. M. MacKay	- " " "
Brigadier S. T. Wood	- " " "

At this meeting Council considered the results of recent study and discussion of the arsenic hazard arising from the roaster operations of the mines at Yellowknife, particularly the Giant Yellowknife Mine.

It was reported that Mr. Muir, General Manager for Giant Yellowknife Mines, was prepared to recommend to his company the immediate purchase of Cottrell equipment to remove arsenic from the roaster smoke; however, it might take from twelve to fifteen months to complete the installation. All the experts seem to agree that the Cottrell equipment is satisfactory but there remains the question of the disposal of the product from this process.

The Deputy Minister of Health had previously recommended that the roaster operation at the Giant Mine be closed down. This would mean closing down the mine and hence economic disaster to the town of Yellowknife. In view of the proposed action by Giant Yellowknife Mines, the Deputy Minister of National Health was consulted as to whether under the circumstances he would be willing to modify his recommendation. Dr. Charron has advised, on behalf of the Deputy Minister of National Health, that the recommendation would have to stand but that if, despite the recommendation, the Northwest Territories Council is prepared to take the calculated risk, then his Department would be prepared to assist in reducing the risk to a minimum by helping to devise suitable regulations and providing a continuous survey of the area in order to provide protection for the community.

After consideration of the above, Council decided that -

1. Inasmuch as Dr. Stanton, Medical Officer of Health for the Yellowknife area, is also Chairman of the Local Trustee Board - which is the municipal body - the Council would not order the Giant Mine to cease its roasting operations provided that -

(a) Mr. Muir assures the Administration immediately that the order for the Cottrell equipment has been placed

and

(b) The advice which the Administration is able to obtain from the Deputy Minister of Health is placed in the hands of Dr. Stanton immediately with the request that these requirements be observed strictly.

2. The Administration is to ask the Deputy Minister of National Health for advice and also for assistance in the matter of a continuing survey.

3. With regard to the problem of disposing of the arsenic waste which will result from the Cottrell process, steps are to be taken to reserve an area for exploration so that a suitable location for the disposal of the poisonous waste under proper supervision can be obtained.

4. The Administration is to discuss immediately with the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company the similar problem which they have at the Con Mine and arrive at a definite assurance of a satisfactory solution within a reasonable time. It will also be necessary to warn the company operating the Negus Mine of the necessity of proper safeguards in case that company contemplates roasting operations.

On the above understanding Council agreed that ore roasting operations at Yellowknife should not be closed down at the present time.

A. R. ...
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Commissioner.

J. G. Wright
.....
Secretary.