

Ross River and Liard First Nation Community Meeting
Yukon Zinc Wolverine Project
Community Member Recommendations
April 2007

Introduction

This document summarizes the water licence related comments from a community meeting that was held in Watson Lake on April 16th and 17th, 2007.

Approximately 45 people attended all or part of the meeting. Generally the community wanted: (a) assurance that the treatments that were prescribed were adequate, (b) a thorough monitoring program of water and fish, (c) assurance that contingency plans were in place to deal with unforeseen impacts, (d) more information about some of the technical prescriptions, and (e) assurance that the Kaska would be involved throughout the project with a commitment to capacity building as need be.

Recommendations

- a) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that a Kaska youth and an Elder from each community participate in the environmental monitoring, in particular, fish and wildlife monitoring, and to be more involved in the Project in general.
- b) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that Yukon Zinc provide quarterly reports describing the environmental monitoring that has been completed, the results of monitoring to date as well as the monitoring that is planned for the next quarter. Reports should be written in non-technical language.
- c) Kaska community members and Elders recommend monitoring of water in Wolverine Creek (associated with bio-pass). The Kaska feel there should be at least two stations between the mine site and Wolverine Lake.
- d) Kaska community members and Elders recommend water and fish sampling program be developed and implemented for Wolverine Lake.
- e) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that the “bio-pass” system be tested early in the development of the mine to ensure it will work. Further it is recommended that a contingency plan be developed in case the system doesn’t work out as planned.
- f) Kaska community members and Elders recommend water monitoring stations on Wolverine Creek (at Finlayson River) and Money Creek at Frances Lake.
- g) Kaska community members and Elders recommend a fish tissue sampling program for fish from Money Creek and Frances Lake.

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- h) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that they be provided information describing how tough the impermeable liner for the tailings impoundment is and how long it is expected to last. They also recommend that a contingency plan be developed to address the potential of a hole or leak in the liner. This arises from concerns about potential seepage to Go Creek once the mine is closed.
- i) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that Yukon Zinc prepare a contingency plan to follow in case the impermeable liner in the tailings impoundment fails.
- j) Kaska community members and Elders recommend a liner be installed in the seepage basin below the tailings impoundment.
- k) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that an additional seepage basin and dam be built as a back-up for the first.
- l) Kaska community members and Elders recommend a ditch be installed on both sides of the tailings impoundment to capture possible overflow.
- m) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that water from two creeks separated by a height of land approximately 8 km along the proposed access road be used for water quality testing.
- n) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that a fish tissue sampling program be set up for the Money Creek, Go Creek, and "Access Road Creek."
- o) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that a fence be put up around and over the tailing impoundment.
- p) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that that Traditional Knowledge work be ongoing throughout the Project and included in the development of the wildlife management plan.
- q) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that moose licks be monitored during operation and after the mine closes.
- r) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that wildlife use around the tailing impoundment and mine site be monitored.
- s) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that blasting residues be studied to determine if they could affect fish either directly or through groundwater seepage from the mine.
- t) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that a study and monitoring be completed to determine the effects of dust from tailings and concentrate

- hauling on fish, wildlife, and plants. Five monitoring stations are recommended along the road.
- u) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that Yukon Zinc bring environmental experts they plan to hire to the communities to meet members, leadership, and elders. Elders want to ensure that experts operate independent of Yukon Zinc.
 - v) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that small buildings which contain spill response supplies be set-up at particularly risky points along the transport route. Examples include sharp corners and bottoms of steep hills, particularly near water.
 - w) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that information on the variety of products that will be used in the milling and mining processes (including reagents such as cyanide) be provided to community members. Information should include: a list of the chemicals that are planned for use, why the products are needed, how they are used, if there are alternatives, what potential health affects there are, the fate of the materials and any health and safety limits set for them by regulatory agencies. A specific request to be provided a summary of the amount of cyanide products that would be used on-site and each day, and a description of how it is transported and stored.
 - x) Kaska community members and Elders recommend monitoring of chemicals entering and leaving the tailings impoundment.
 - y) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that bridges be installed to cross streams, rather than using culverts.
 - z) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that they be provided information on how the government decides what the health and safety limits are for mining product residues in wildlife, fish, plants, etc.
 - aa) Kaska community members and Elders recommend monitoring caribou crossings along the road route.
 - bb) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that the size of the water “polishing pond” at the mine portal be reviewed and the size adjusted to ensure water quality standards are met.
 - cc) Kaska community members and Elders recommend their involvement in post-closure planning and the development of plans so they can be aware of how the plans were developed and certain that closure plans ensure there are no long-term problems after the mine is closed and that the environment is safe.

dd) Kaska community members and Elders recommend that Yukon Zinc have a follow-up meeting with communities to discuss outcomes from the hearing to provide answers to their questions and explain how their concerns were addressed.

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