Regulatory Context

October 14, 2015

Remtech 2015, Banff, AB
The Setting
A Brief History

- Gold discovered in region in 1800s
- Exploration in the 1930s led to opening of Giant Mine in 1948
- Operated continuously until 1999, when operator went bankrupt
A Brief History

• Abandoned site became Government of Canada and GNWT responsibility
• Started remediation planning
• Offsite processing of ore continued until 2004

• Giant Mine Remediation Project created to reduce risk and liability to Crown
• Canada and NWT co-proponents for project
Site Characteristics

- 850 hectare site
- 237,000 Tonnes arsenic trioxide dust
- >100 structures (some heavily contaminated)
- 95 hectares of tailings
Site Characteristics

- Contaminated soils
- Watershed (creek and fish habitat)

- Several large open pits
- Underground instability
- Jurisdictionally complex – Federal, Territorial, First Nations, City of Yellowknife
Legislation and Regulations
Legislation and Regulations

- Fisheries Act
- Northwest Territories Mine Health & Safety Act & Regulations
- City of Yellowknife
  - By-Law 4404 (Development Permit and Demolition Permit)
Legislation and Regulations

• Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
  – Water Licence & Land Use Permit
  – Administered by the Mackenzie Valley Land & Water Board
Legislation and Regulations

- Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
Other Authorizations

- Migratory Birds Convention Act
- Species at Risk Act
- NWT Health & Social Services
- Various research permits
Challenges to Project Planning

• Possibility of competing requirements
• Consultation time built into scheduling
• Additional reporting
Challenges to Project Planning

- Shortening of already limited work season
- Ongoing water treatment & other controls
Meeting Our Requirements

• Integrated project team & work planning
  – Regulatory, risk, engagement, communications
  – Work with technical team during, not after, planning
  – Can include input from Dept. of Justice lawyers
Meeting Our Requirements

• Regulatory Manager
  – Located in Yellowknife
  – Regular and frequent communication with inspectors, Board staff, and others
  – Participates in work planning and scheduling
  – Monitors compliance during work
Questions?

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