

## Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX

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**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 2:00 PM  
**To:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Highway 3 - 1:30 pm Update

Thanks Steve.

Jeff, let's make sure we have a clear protocol on what weather will want this and time lines for responding.

Thanks.

Murray

W. Murray Tekano  
District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District & Senior Project Director

Direct Phone: 250-712-3629

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**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 01:54 PM  
**To:** Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Highway 3 - 1:30 pm Update

Only thing I will add is that monitoring will increase when a warming trend is identified and may even result in reverting back to 'close' monitoring.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 1:47 PM, "Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX" <[Rick.Blixrud@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Blixrud@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

NR

Rick

*Thanks,*

*Rick Blixrud,*

*Deputy Regional Director   Southern Interior Region,   Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure*

*342 - 447 Columbia Street, Kamloops*

*☎ (250) 828-4843   📠 (250) 828-4204*

*e-mail: [Rick.Blixrud@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Blixrud@gov.bc.ca)*

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**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:37 PM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Highway 3 - 1:30 pm Update

Folks,

I just talked to Steve Sirett.

The geotech engineer was able to view the site from the air and confirms there are no concerns with our plan to build the berm and open the highway to traffic today.

The engineer also advises that scaling the site is not practical given the slope and material. His report will recommend monitoring with longer term plans to remove the talus material.

In the immediate term he recommends we leave the planned two lane arrangement and berm in place until another warm cycle, preferably with rain, takes place and we can observe how the slope responds. He feels monitoring can be ramped back once we are comfortable the slope remains dormant.

Our plan going forward will be to open the highway to two way traffic – one lane each direction early this evening (time to be confirmed following a 3 pm progress update call) with on site lighting, spotters and traffic control personnel (I'm calling this "close monitoring"). We will maintain close monitoring through the weekend and reassess on Monday morning.

If slope activity remains low we would remove the spotters, TCP and lighting from the site and revert to regular maintenance contractor highway patrol to check the site and report conditions (let's call this condition "patrolling". If significant activity resumes we would resume close monitoring until it abates.

Jeff, you will need to confirm the communication process with the MC if slope activity picks up and confirm the contact information for geotech call out.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Murray

**W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director

British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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**From:** Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:44 AM  
**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

approved

**Mike Lorimer**  
**Regional Director - Southern Interior Region**

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**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:43 AM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

Further update.

Lets update Drive BC as well with the anticipated opening.

Murray

**W. Murray Tekano**  
District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:39 AM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

Lianne,

I have marked up the bullets below.

Murray

**W. Murray Tekano**  
District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director

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**From:** Bowness, Lisanne GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:26 AM  
**To:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

I have made Steve's edits – please have a look over this version:

- **The aerial assessment of the site has been delayed due to continued low cloud cover and low visibility.**
- **The aerial assessment of the site, to assess the slope stability, will happen once visibility permits.**
- **In the mean time visual assessment of the site by our geotech engineers on the ground has been carried out and plans are being developed for re-opening of the highway this evening.**
- **We have continued to monitor the site and no new rock fall activity has been reported since Tuesday.**
- **Crews are presently working to construct a rock berm along the westbound lanes to act as a means of added protection when the highway re-opens.**
- **At present the highway remains closed in both directions while final assessments are made and the protective works are constructed.**
- **Traffic is still being advised to use Highway 5A as an alternate in Princeton and use Highway 97/97c alternate from Osoyoos and Kaleden Intersection south of Penticton.**
- **Please continue to check DriveBC for updates.**

If the media ask any further questions, I advise that we ask them to call us back in the afternoon, and we will have another update at that time.

**Lisanne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

5A - 940 Blanshard St.

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5

**Office Phone:** 250-387-3953 **Cell Phone:** s15, s17

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**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:19 AM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Bowness, Lisanne GCPE:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

A few suggestions.

Bullet 2 - not sure if we want to say time. Could say once visibility permits.

Bullet 5 - instead of 40 hours, could say since last rock fall activity on tuesday.

Bullet 6 - hwy planning to be open even if assessment doesn't happen. Only new activity may delay opening it or if the assessment happens and identifies serious risk. Could just say - hwy May be open this evening provided it's safe to do so...

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 10:12 AM, "Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX" <[Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

**Lisanne – Here are some draft bullets for our next update at around 10:30AM :**

## Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX

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**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:47 PM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Highway 3 Rock Fall Traffic Management Plan

Thanks Jeff.

### **W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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**From:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:42 PM  
**To:** 'Argo - Al Fraser'  
**Cc:** XT:Corbach, Bernie TRAN:IN; XT:MtCon, Rob Wiens TRAN:IN; Keir, Chris TRAN:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Swales, Dave L TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Highway 3 Rock Fall Traffic Management Plan

Al – Please find below the required traffic management protocols for the upcoming highway re-opening at 6:00PM tonight at the rockfall site nine kilometres east of Keremeos.

**It is imperative that these protocols are clearly understood by all staff involved and implemented as described below.**

The ministry will be proceeding with the opening of Highway 3 to two way traffic, one in each direction in the eastbound lanes. The ministry requests that Argo provide a system of “close monitoring” that will operate as described below :

Argo will continue to maintain a traffic control person on either side of the slide area at the previously approved safe locations and a spotter will also be required to remain on site through the weekend. The traffic control personnel are required to stop traffic on short notice should the spotter identify a rock fall hazard to motorists.

While in the “close monitoring” phase flaggers will be responsible to stop all traffic from passing through the site for 30 minutes for all rockfall events producing up to 2 cubic meters of material. If after 30 minutes there is no further rockfall activity then traffic can be released and two way traffic through the site resumed.

If a rock fall event produces more than two cubic metres of material flaggers will be responsible to stop all traffic from passing through the site and the highway will be closed until a geotechnical assessment can be completed. All traffic control devices, CMS's and light plants will be re-activated for the full closure.

All rockfall events must be reported immediately to a ministry representative. Contacts listed in order of contact are :

- 1) Dave Swales – s15, s17
- 2) Jeff Wiseman – 250-490-5785 (C)
- 3) Chris Keir – 250-490-6134 (C)

On Monday morning the ministry will reassess the rock fall site and if minimal activity occurred during the weekend the ministry will request Argo to reinstate “enhanced patrols”, removing the flaggers and spotter from the site. Traffic

control devices will remain available to the site, including light plants and CMS's at key detour locations, should the need be to re-implement a highway closure on short notice. A loader should also be available to the site to remove any rockfall activity on short notice.

Patrols will be performed a minimum once every four hours during this period of "enhanced patrols"

This period of "enhanced patrols" will continue until such time as either we experience a cycle of warm weather(significant melting), preferably with rain, or the ministry advises otherwise. The ministry will analyse the slopes stability as a result of these weather conditions and if the slope remains inactive Argo can then resume normal patrol frequencies as per the maintenance standard for patrol (once every 24 hours).

Once a warm weather event has occurred and the slope remains inactive for rock fall, the ministry will then advise Argo that the protective berm can be removed and work can begin to restore the highway to its previous four lane capacity, repairing all damage caused by the rock fall incident at that time.(ie. Pavement repair, CRB replacement, etc.)

## Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX

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**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 5:06 PM  
**To:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Drive BC - Message

Have we had a problem develop or is this a mistake?

Should the message read – Highway 3 re-opened west of Keremeos. It probably doesn't mater how many lanes in each direction as man y motorist won't know the difference.

### W. Murray Tekano

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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**From:** Drive BC [<mailto:Drive.BC@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:58 PM  
**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Drive BC - All Major Events By Highway

## Drive BC All Major Events By Highway Travellers Information Report

All times are Pacific Time unless otherwise noted  
Informational only, please do not reply

### Highway 3 Both Directions

{U} Rock Slide 9 km west of Keremeos. The road is reduced to single lane alternating traffic. Updated on Thu Jan 30 at 4:58 pm. (ID# 164505)

End of Travellers Information Report  
Thursday 30 January at 16:58



## Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX

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**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 5:12 PM  
**To:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Drive BC - Message

Ok, much better – whew!

Good work guys.

Murray

### **W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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**From:** Drive BC [<mailto:Drive.BC@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 5:10 PM  
**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Drive BC - All Major Events By Highway

## **Drive BC All Major Events By Highway Travellers Information Report**

All times are Pacific Time unless otherwise noted  
Informational only, please do not reply

### Highway 3 Both Directions

{U} Rock Slide 9 km west of Keremeos. Traffic is open to 2 lanes.  
There is a 60km/hr speed zone through the Rock Slide area.  
Updated on Thu Jan 30 at 5:09 pm. (ID# 164505)

End of Travellers Information Report  
Thursday 30 January at 17:09

## Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX

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**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 3:41 PM  
**To:** Swales, Dave L TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Highway 3 Closure

Hi Dave,

Just a quick note to say thank you for the great work on the highway 3 closure this work. You kept the lid on the pot, got the right things going and provided great support to the team. I appreciate the experience you brought to this one.

Well done.

Murray

**W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

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**From:** Swales, Dave L TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 11:37 AM  
**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX; Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Lolacher, Russel TRAN:EX; RTMC TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** MORE PHOTOS: Highway 3 Slide  
**Attachments:** Hwy 3 RS (13).JPG; Hwy 3 RS (14).JPG; Hwy 3 RS (15).JPG; Hwy 3 RS (22).JPG

Thanks Murray and all of you for your kind words they are much appreciated!!!

For me; I would especially like to Thank Steve!!!!!! His knowledge and experience, especially as it related to the communication and media aspect of this event was indispensable. It was most certainly a team effort by all involved that allowed us to get the Crowsnest open and once again providing road access to our many stakeholders.

A few more photos for you all then.....DLS

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**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 5:15 PM  
**To:** Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX; Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Swales, Dave L TRAN:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Highway 3 - 5:15 Update - Road is Open

Folks,

Highway 3 has re-opened to two way traffic – one lane each direction. Close monitoring will be in place until Monday morning and the need is reassessed.

Way to go Jeff, Dave and Steve.

Murray

### **W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

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**From:** Swales, Dave L TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 12:30 PM  
**To:** Sparkes, Bill TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: district web site

Hey Bill.....Here's a few more. Just to offer some perspective the source area is perhaps a 1000 feet or more above the Highway.....DLS



Hwy 3 RS (13).JPG Hwy 3 RS (15).JPG Hwy 3 RS (22).JPG





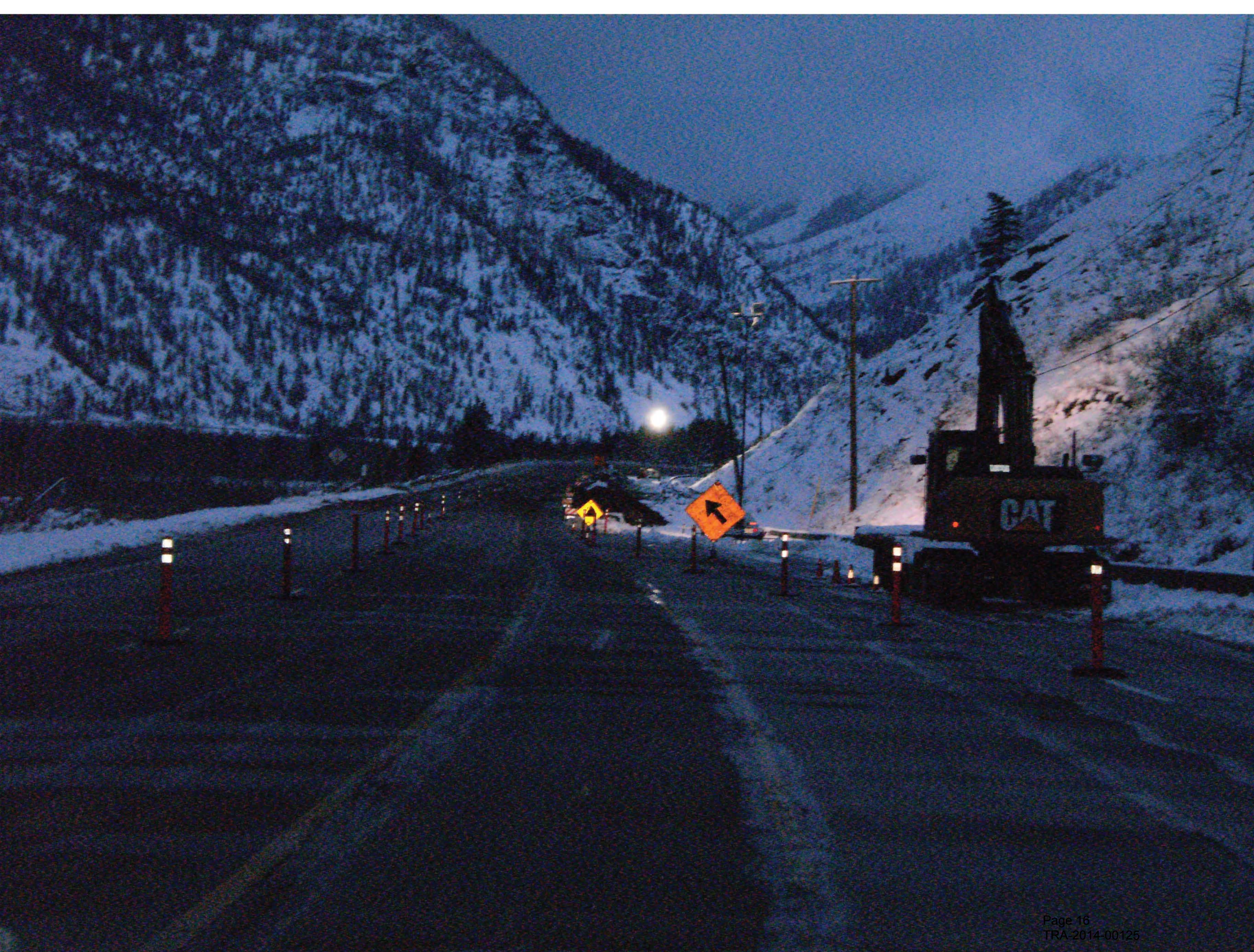














## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

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**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:58 PM  
**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX; Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Jan 30 Assessment of Keremeos Slide, Hwy #3

FYI

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Pollak, Steve C TRAN:EX" <[Steve.Pollak@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Pollak@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** January 30, 2014 at 1:56:34 PM PST  
**To:** "Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX" <[Steve.Sirett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Sirett@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Swales, Dave L TRAN:EX" <[Dave.Swales@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Swales@gov.bc.ca)>, "Dowdle, Mike L TRAN:EX" <[Mike.Dowdle@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mike.Dowdle@gov.bc.ca)>, "Seelig, Peter TRAN:EX" <[Peter.Seelig@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Peter.Seelig@gov.bc.ca)>, "Cossenass, Aristo TRAN:EX" <[Aristo.Cossenass@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aristo.Cossenass@gov.bc.ca)>, "Wu, Ben S TRAN:EX" <[Ben.Wu@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ben.Wu@gov.bc.ca)>, "Beattie, Brent C TRAN:EX" <[Brent.Beattie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brent.Beattie@gov.bc.ca)>, "Harbicht, Terry N TRAN:EX" <[Terry.Harbicht@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Terry.Harbicht@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Jan 30 Assessment of Keremeos Slide, Hwy #3

Hi Steve

As discussed with you on site, I would like to summarize results of our helicopter assessment of the rock fall site and future plans as follows.

An aerial assessment was done today between about 11 am and 12 pm when cloud cover lifted. There does not appear to be any major residual stability problem in the area of the Jan 27 rock fall. This assessment confirms the photographic analysis that was carried out previously. There has been no rock fall activity since Jan 28.

Given the latest assessment results and lack of any visible rock falls, there is no reason to delay opening the highway to traffic. It may be prudent to continue with the proposed risk reduction measures as planned, including temporary berm, two lanes closed, spotter and flag people. As cold temperatures and inactive slope continue, a reduction in the number of on site personnel may be considered starting tomorrow at the discretion of the District.

The previously established traffic shutdown criteria appear to be reasonable:

- basketball size triggers half hour closure
- 2 m3 on the pavement triggers closure and re-assessment

Re-staffing the site is reasonable should warmer temperatures be expected that could trigger more activity. After a day or two of above freezing weather and noticeable thawing of the slope without rock fall activity, re-opening to 4 lanes should be considered.

Steve

On Jan 29, 2014, at 6:25 PM, "Pollak, Steve C TRAN:EX" <[Steve.Pollak@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Pollak@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

I just got an update from Steve. The road will remain closed tonight. Work at highway level has stopped and will continue tomorrow. This is just a precaution for worker safety, no rock fall activity has occurred.

Steve

On Jan 29, 2014, at 4:44 PM, "Pollak, Steve C TRAN:EX" <[Steve.Pollak@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Pollak@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Steve

Further to Brent Beattie's initial assessment on January 28 of the January 27, 2014 rock fall site, Rockwork Engineering performed additional assessment work using images of the site taken before and after the event. The site is located about 9 km west of Keremeos (RFI landmark 7090, Lucky R Campground, offset 2.900 to 3.045 km and LKI km 55.5 to 55.6). My understanding is that two vehicles were damaged in the event consisting of up to about 500 m3 on the pavement, but no serious injuries resulted. A second rockfall of about 20 m3 occurred on January 28 around 2 pm after cleanup operations had started. There has been no more rock fall activity since January 28.

Photographic analysis suggests that the rock fall source area has generally cleaned itself out and appears to be in a better stability condition than before the event. While some residual rock fall activity may result in the future, it is generally expected to consist of isolated low volume events with a similar likelihood of occurring as from surrounding areas.

To confirm our photographic analysis, on January 29 we attempted to perform an aerial assessment of the rock fall source area, but the site was not accessible by helicopter due to poor weather conditions. A limited highway level assessment was proposed today using binoculars, but low cloud prevented that. A follow-up aerial attempt is scheduled for tomorrow morning with a forecasted improvement in weather.

Given the generally difficult site access and slope conditions, weather and potential worker safety concerns, an on-slope

stabilization attempt is not recommended and not considered practical or necessary at this time.

The highway has remained closed since January 27 with limited additional rock fall activity. On the basis of engineering assessment results, it was determined that the rock fall site has reached a degree of stability that would allow interim re-opening of the highway to two lanes this evening with the following risk reduction measures in place:

- Westbound two lanes remain closed
- Construct a temporary rock fall protection berm in the WB fast lane, 150 to 200 m long and 1 to 2 m high or as can reasonably be achieved using available material nearby.
- Spotter person with radio and air horn
- Flagpersons with the ability to close the highway if spotter sees rock fall activity

There is a slight possibility that tomorrow's scheduled aerial assessment may require changes to the above measures. If additional rock falls occur in the meantime overnight, it may be wise to close the highway again until further assessment is done.

As winter weather conditions consisting of cold temperatures and snow now exist at the site, there is a possibility that the source area stability has increased. The stability condition may change over the next few days as temperatures fluctuate and freeze-thaw may occur. Within 1 to 2 days it may be possible to remove the berm and fully re-open the highway to 4 lanes, if for example warmer temperatures do not result in significant additional rock fall activity.

Any previously established safe work procedures are not superseded by any of the above.

Steve

## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

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**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:21 PM  
**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Discovery Channel Question

All good with me.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 3:20 PM, "Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX" <[Murray.Tekano@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Murray.Tekano@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Ok.

### **W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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**From:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:10 PM  
**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Discovery Channel Question

Can we also add in this:

The geotech engineer was able to view the site from the air and confirms there are no concerns with the ministry's plan to build the berm and open the highway to traffic later this evening, one lane in each direction.

The time of the opening is yet to be confirmed.

### **Lianne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)  
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
5A - 940 Blanshard St.  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5  
**Office Phone: 250-387-3953 Cell Phone:** s15, s17

---

**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 2:58 PM  
**To:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Discovery Channel Question

I have suggested responses below – unless you guys have already made them.

Murray

**W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &

Senior Project Director

British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX

**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 2:06 PM

**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX

**Subject:** Fwd: Discovery Channel Question

See below. Most questions are strait forward and already have responses.

Can't speak to Telus/Fortis question.

I have spoken to Steve regarding the two Geotechs question.

Answer could be along the lines of.

They work as a team initial assessment is completed by regional geotech and they provide recommendations to geotechs who specialize in rock works/scaling.

Can speak to the previous bullets approved re:hwY opening.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX" <[Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca)>

**Date:** January 30, 2014 at 1:57:19 PM PST

**To:** "Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX" <[Steve.Sirett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Sirett@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Discovery Channel Questions

OK, here are their questions. Are you/ Murray/ Jeff able to answer them?

Once you have got answers, I will run past Rick/ Mike and then through Min office for approvals.

Discovery Channel Questions:

1/ Weather conditions today - how does this affect monitoring the situation?

**Weather conditions have not affected the site monitoring.**

2/ When do you anticipate sending a helicopter up?

**We were able to complete aerial inspection of the slope earlier this morning.**

3/ Building a berm: the plan (using fallen rock from site) to create a safety buffer. Can you explain how this works?

**The berm is being constructed as a precautionary measure to reduce the potential for any rock fall reaching the travelled lanes.**

4/ When will the highway be opened?

**We expect to re-open the highway this evening.**

5/ Looking for a comment on what needs to happen (to ensure public safety) before the highway is opened.

**The berm construction needs to be completed before the highway will be re-opened.**

6/ Importance of Highway 3 route, transportation wise (do you have numbers on traffic volume typically travelling through this route?)

**Highway 3 is an important inter-provincial and regional transportation corridor connecting the southern interior of the province to the lower mainland and Alberta. Traffic volumes are in the order of 2,300 vehicles per day.**

7/ Difference between geotech that went up initially vs. next geotech. (are they from different departments? Different qualifications? Did the first findings escalate the response?)

**Specialists in rock fall mitigation were brought in to do the detailed examination of the slope and provide advice prior to re-opening the highway.**

8/ Is it important to restore the communications lines on site? (these are one of two major lines - the other on the coquihalla- one of two 'arteries' or pipelines connecting west and east coast).

**Damaged telephone and power lines will be addressed by the utility companies. There is no concerns for any underground utilities.**

**Lisanne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

5A - 940 Blanshard St.

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5

**Office Phone: 250-387-3953 Cell Phone:** s15, s17

## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:52 AM  
**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX; Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Current conditions

Helicopter just flew over head. Visibility still questionable but will be able to react quickly to any window of opportunity.

Heading back to the site. Will update once assessment complete.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

> On Jan 30, 2014, at 7:51 AM, "Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX" <[Murray.Tekano@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Murray.Tekano@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

>

> Thanks Steve.

>

> Jeff, can you work with Lianne at GCPE please?

>

> Thanks.

>

> Murray

>

>

> W. Murray Tekano

> District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District & Senior

> Project Director

>

> Direct Phone: 250-712-3629

>

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> have received this message in error, please contact the sender  
> immediately and delete the material from your computer and systems.

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX

> Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 07:40 AM

> To: Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX

> Subject: Current conditions

>

> Additional 5cm has fallen and still falling. No rock fall activity on the site last nite.  
Starting to shape berm and hauling of material will continue this morning.

>

> Ceiling too low to fly and is expected to be that way for the next 7 hours. Geotechs are  
coming to the site anyway and we expect an update from the helicopter company in a few hours.

>

> Can you guys start working on bullets around opening of the highway prior to doing the second aerial assessment? Talking to Steve he wants to emphasize the first assessment and photographic assessment done. Also I think lack of rock fall activity for the past 36 hours is good route.

>

> Going to Connie to work towards a noon opening. Snow is definitely not going to help but I believe still achievable.

>

> Steve Sirett

> 250-878-1834

>



## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:28 PM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Discovery channel

Hi Lianne. The DS crew told me they had sent some questions to Robert that they would like to ask.

Any word on this?

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

> On Jan 30, 2014, at 8:13 AM, "Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX" <[Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:  
>  
> Ok all sounds good. I will await murray/ jeff's update. I might also suggest an answer to "what is a typical geotechnical assessment like?" As they might be curious about what goes on/ what the techs scan for, etc.  
>  
>  
> ----- Original Message -----  
> From: Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
> Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 07:45 AM  
> To: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
> Subject: Re: Discovery channel  
>  
> Hi Lianne  
>  
> The berm is for added protection to motorists in case of rock fall, this along with the spotters we are going to have set up will be part of the strategy when we open.  
>  
> I have asked Murray and Jeff to start preparing bullets for the opening. It does not look like the second aerial assessment will happen before anticipated opening so want to be sure I have approved responses around that. Those bullets will likely satisfy discovery channel.  
>  
> Steve Sirett  
> 250-878-1834  
>  
>  
>> On Jan 30, 2014, at 7:40 AM, "Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX" <[Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:  
>>  
>> Hi steve, those questions are fine. Let me know what are your suggested answers for them and I will run through approvals as soon as I get in. Sounds like they are just curious about "what's going on". Tell them you can answer their questions a little later this morning, that you just need to go through the proper process first. Thanks!  
>>  
>>  
>> ----- Original Message -----  
>> From: Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
>> Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 05:57 AM  
>> To: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
>> Subject: Discovery channel  
>>

>> Morning Lisanne  
>>  
>> Discovery channel has very different questions and interests in the media.  
>>  
>> They want to know why we're building a berm, what the geotechs saw, etc.  
>>  
>> I don't mind speaking re: operational facts, I won't get into too much detail about what we see in the rock face. I'm just not sure what I am suppose to tell them outside of the approved bullets which I know they aren't terribly interested in.  
>>  
>> Does it make sense to have them call you and tell you what questions they want to ask? Get approval on those.  
>>  
>> Or do I just keep it to the approved bullets and leave it at that?  
>>  
>> Steve Sirett  
>> 250-878-1834  
>>

## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:09 PM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Beattie, Brent C TRAN:EX; Pollak, Steve C TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: H3 Traffic management plan

Brent, Steve who is the best contact over the next few days for call out?

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

> On Jan 30, 2014, at 2:19 PM, "Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX" <[Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:  
>  
> Steve - Yes, I can provide this to Argo.  
> Who is the Geotech contact for this site over the next few days?, is it Steve Pollak or Brent Beattie or others?  
>  
> Jeff  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
> Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:53 PM  
> To: Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
> Subject: H3 Traffic management plan  
>  
> Jeff  
>  
> I(or you can) am going to send this to Al and Bernie, let me know what you think.  
>  
> Steve Pollak wants to remain involved so please ensure he is one of the contacts.  
>  
> Bernie, Al  
>  
> Just to confirm.  
>  
> We are continuing with our plan to open to two way traffic, one in each direction in the eastbound lanes.  
>  
> The traffic control and spotters will need to remain on site through the weekend. Monday morning we will reassess and if minimal activity occurs we will then go to regular patrols and remove flaggers, spotters and light plants from the site.  
>  
> During monitoring:  
> Any rock fall less than 2m3 spotters/flaggers are to stop all traffic for 30min. If no additional activity happens within that 30min traffic can be released.  
>  
> Any rock fall greater than 2m3 all traffic must stop, hwy is closed until a geotechnical assessment can be completed.  
>  
> We will provide contact information for Geotech's to be contacted in case this occurs.  
>  
> The berm and two way traffic will remain in place until we go through a warming cycle and can monitor how the slope reacts to this. Increased monitoring will be required when the warming conditions occur.

>  
>  
> Steve Sirett  
> 250-878-1834  
>

## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:55 PM  
**To:** Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Highway 3 - 1:30 pm Update

Only thing I will add is that monitoring will increase when a warming trend is identified and may even result in reverting back to 'close' monitoring.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 1:47 PM, "Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX" <[Rick.Blixrud@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Blixrud@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

NR

Rick

*Thanks,*

*Rick Blixrud,*

*Deputy Regional Director   Southern Interior Region,   Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure*

*342 - 447 Columbia Street, Kamloops*

* (250) 828-4843    (250) 828-4204*

*e-mail: [Rick.Blixrud@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Blixrud@gov.bc.ca)*

---

**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:37 PM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Highway 3 - 1:30 pm Update

Folks,

I just talked to Steve Sirett.

The geotech engineer was able to view the site from the air and confirms there are no concerns with our plan to build the berm and open the highway to traffic today.

The engineer also advises that scaling the site is not practical given the slope and material. His report will recommend monitoring with longer term plans to remove the talus material.

In the immediate term he recommends we leave the planned two lane arrangement and berm in place until another warm cycle, preferably with rain, takes place and we can observe how the slope responds. He feels monitoring can be ramped back once we are comfortable the slope remains dormant.

Our plan going forward will be to open the highway to two way traffic – one lane each direction early this evening (time to be confirmed following a 3 pm progress update call) with on site lighting, spotters and traffic control personnel (I'm calling this "close monitoring"). We will maintain close monitoring through the weekend and reassess on Monday morning.

If slope activity remains low we would remove the spotters, TCP and lighting from the site and revert to regular maintenance contractor highway patrol to check the site and report conditions (let's call this condition "patrolling". If significant activity resumes we would resume close monitoring until it abates.

Jeff, you will need to confirm the communication process with the MC if slope activity picks up and confirm the contact information for geotech call out.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Murray

**W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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**From:** Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:44 AM  
**To:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

approved

**Mike Lorimer**

**Regional Director - Southern Interior Region**

---

**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:43 AM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

Further update.

Lets update Drive BC as well with the anticipated opening.

Murray

**W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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---

**From:** Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX

**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:39 AM

**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX

**Subject:** Updated Bullets - Highway 3

Lianne,

I have marked up the bullets below.

Murray

**W. Murray Tekano**

District Manager, Transportation - Okanagan Shuswap District &  
Senior Project Director  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
**Phone: (250) 712-3629**

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**From:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:26 AM

**To:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX

**Subject:** RE: Updated Bullets - Highway 3

I have made Steve's edits – please have a look over this version:

- **The aerial assessment of the site has been delayed due to continued low cloud cover and low visibility.**
- **The aerial assessment of the site, to assess the slope stability, will happen once visibility permits.**
- **In the mean time visual assessment of the site by our geotech engineers on the ground has been carried out and plans are being developed for re-opening of the highway this evening.**
- **We have continued to monitor the site and no new rock fall activity has been reported since Tuesday.**
- **Crews are presently working to construct a rock berm along the westbound lanes to act as a means of added protection when the highway re-opens.**

- At present the highway remains closed in both directions while final assessments are made and the protective works are constructed.
- Traffic is still being advised to use Highway 5A as an alternate in Princeton and use Highway 97/97c alternate from Osoyoos and Kaleden Intersection south of Penticton.
- Please continue to check DriveBC for updates.

If the media ask any further questions, I advise that we ask them to call us back in the afternoon, and we will have another update at that time.

**Lisanne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

5A - 940 Blanshard St.

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5

**Office Phone: 250-387-3953 Cell Phone:** s15, s17

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:19 AM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Bowness, Lisanne GCPE:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

A few suggestions.

Bullet 2 - not sure if we want to say time. Could say once visibility permits.

Bullet 5 - instead of 40 hours, could say since last rock fall activity on tuesday.

Bullet 6 - hwy planning to be open even if assessment doesn't happen. Only new activity may delay opening it or if the assessment happens and identifies serious risk. Could just say - hwy May be open this evening provided it's safe to do so...

Steve Sirett  
 250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 10:12 AM, "Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX" <[Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

**Lisanne – Here are some draft bullets for our next update at around 10:30AM :**



## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:14 PM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media request / Penticton Herald / Highway 3 rockslide

Okay sure. But will need quick approval turn around if try want an interview before 5:30-6

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 3:12 PM, "Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX" <[Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Don't we want to use the new bullets (the ones for Discovery Channel)?  
I think we can package them up and use for all of the reporters.  
This reporter is wanting more of an in depth look...FYI.

**Lianne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)  
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
5A - 940 Blanshard St.  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5  
**Office Phone: 250-387-3953 Cell Phone** s15, s17

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:10 PM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media request / Penticton Herald / Highway 3 rockslide

Okay, I'll just use the previous bullets approved and should be fine.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 2:25 PM, "Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX" <[Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Steve – this reporter was sent the bullets this morning, but he would like to speak to you today if possible.  
I think it sounds like he wants more of an in depth look at the original rock fall that occurred/ what happened/ and all of the various assessments.  
I would anticipate a question inquiring about “why it's taking so long” to re-open the highway?

Minister Requested (Y/N): N but would like to speak to someone

Topic: rockslide on Highway 3

Contact info: John Moorhouse, Penticton Herald, 250-490-0880 (ext 304),  
[john.moorhouse@pentictonherald.ca](mailto:john.moorhouse@pentictonherald.ca)

Questions: According to the DriveBC website, Hwy 3 west of Keremeos is due to reopen early this evening following Monday's rock slide.  
He would like to speak to someone in detail about the reopening and the problems encountered this week.

Deadline: this afternoon

**Lisanne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

5A - 940 Blanshard St.

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5

**Office Phone: 250-387-3953 Cell Phone:** s15, s17

## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:21 PM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Lolacher, Russel TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Update on Highway 3 - for twitter

Not yet. I will take some when I'm back on site and send them around 3 when I do another update.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 11:30 AM, "Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX" <[Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Steve – Any new photos of site?

---

**From:** Lolacher, Russel TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 11:25 AM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Update on Highway 3 - for twitter

Hi Jeff,  
Any photos of this?

- **Crews are presently working to construct a rock berm along the westbound lanes to act as a means of added protection when the highway re-opens.**

---

**From:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** January-30-14 11:13 AM  
**To:** Lolacher, Russel TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Lorimer, Mike TRAN:EX; Blixrud, Rick G TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX; Knight, Jeff J GCPE:EX; Adam, Robert GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Update on Highway 3 - for twitter

Hi Russel – here's the latest update on Highway 3.  
DriveBC is being updated now by Jeff Wiseman.  
Robert is sending this update out to the interested media.

- **The aerial assessment of the site has been delayed due to continued low cloud cover and low visibility.**
- **The aerial assessment of the site, to assess the slope stability, will happen once visibility permits.**
- **In the meantime, our geotech engineers on the ground have completed a visual assessment of the site and plans are being developed for re-opening of the highway this evening.**

- We have continued to monitor the site and no new rockfall activity has been reported since Tuesday.
- Crews are presently working to construct a rock berm along the westbound lanes to act as a means of added protection when the highway re-opens.
- The highway remains closed in both directions while final assessments are made and the protective works are constructed.
- Traffic is still being advised to use Highway 5A as an alternate in Princeton and use Highway 97/97c alternate from Osoyoos and Kaleden Intersection south of Penticton.

**Lisanne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

5A - 940 Blanshard St.

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5

**Office Phone: 250-387-3953 Cell Phone:** s15, s17

## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

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**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:15 PM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Updated bullets: Highway 3 - for media calls

Going to head back to the site. Likely won't be available until after 5:30.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 4:00 PM, "Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX" <[Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

For MO approval:

Here are the updated bullets, as approved by Rick Blixrud, Steve Sirett, and Murray Tekano.

Discovery Channel has a few extra questions, which I have added in below.

Steve to do the Discovery Channel interview as well as the Penticton Herald request, and the CBC Radio request.

**General update:**

- The geotech engineer was able to view the site from the air today, and confirms there are no concerns with the ministry's plan to build a temporary berm and open the highway to traffic later this evening, one lane in each direction.
- Crews are working to construct a rock berm along the westbound lanes to act as a means of added protection when the highway re-opens.
- Work is progressing on schedule and Highway 3 will re-open at 6:00 tonight to two way traffic - one lane in each direction.
- DriveBC has been updated with this information.

**Discovery Channel Questions:**

**1/ Weather conditions today - how does this affect monitoring the situation? Did you send a helicopter up?**

- Weather conditions have not affected the site monitoring. We were able to complete aerial inspection of the slope earlier this morning.

**2/ Building a berm: the plan (using fallen rock from site) to create a safety buffer. Can you explain how this works?**

- The berm is being constructed as a precautionary measure to reduce the potential for any rock fall reaching the travelled lanes.

**3/ Looking for a comment on what needs to happen (to ensure public safety) before the highway is opened.**

- The berm construction needs to be completed before the highway will be re-opened.

**4/ Importance of Highway 3 route (do you have numbers on traffic volumes typically travelling through this route?)**

- Highway 3 is an important inter-provincial and regional transportation corridor connecting the southern interior of the province to the lower mainland and Alberta. Traffic volumes are in the order of 2,300 vehicles per day.

**5/ Difference between geotech that went up initially vs. next geotech (are they from different departments? Different qualifications? Did the first findings escalate the response?)**

- The initial response was an overview assessment by regional geotechnical engineers. They do an initial check to determine stability of the slope, to ensure the safety of workers and the travelling public.
- The second group brought in were specialists in rockfall mitigation. They were brought in to do the detailed examination of the slope and provide advice prior to re-opening the highway.

**6/ Is it important to restore the communications lines on site?**

- Damaged telephone and power lines will be addressed by the utility companies. There are no concerns for any underground utilities.

**Lisanne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

5A - 940 Blanshard St.

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5

**Office Phone: 250-387-3953 Cell Phone:** s15, s17

## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:31 AM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

Do we want to keep the part Jeff had regarding working towards possibly an opening this evening? I am good with that.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 10:26 AM, "Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX" <[Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

I have made Steve's edits – please have a look over this version:

- **The aerial assessment of the site had to be delayed again this morning, due to continued low cloud cover and low visibility.**
- **The aerial assessment of the site, to assess the slope stability, will happen once visibility permits.**
- **In the meantime, crews continue to construct a rock berm along the westbound lanes to act as a means of added protection.**
- **The highway remains closed in both directions.**
- **We have continued to monitor the site and no new rock fall activity has been reported since the last rock fall activity on Tuesday.**
- **Traffic is still being advised to use Highway 5A as an alternate in Princeton and use Highway 97/97c alternate from Osoyoos and Kaleden Intersection south of Penticton.**
- **Please continue to check DriveBC for updates.**

If the media ask any further questions, I advise that we ask them to call us back in the afternoon, and we will have another update at that time.

### **Lianne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)  
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
5A - 940 Blanshard St.  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5  
**Office Phone: 250-387-3953 Cell Phone:** s15, s17

---

**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:19 AM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

A few suggestions.

Bullet 2 - not sure if we want to say time. Could say once visibility permits.

Bullet 5 - instead of 40 hours, could say since last rock fall activity on tuesday.

Bullet 6 - hwy planning to be open even if assessment doesn't happen. Only new activity may delay opening it or if the assessment happens and identifies serious risk. Could just say - hwy May be open this evening provided it's safe to do so...

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 10:12 AM, "Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX" <[Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

**Lisanne – Here are some draft bullets for our next update at around 10:30AM :**



## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

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**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:36 AM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

Sounds good.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 10:33 AM, "Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX" <[Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

I'm good with that

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**From:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:33 AM  
**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

I think we should wait, and not give this until we know.

**Lianne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)  
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
5A - 940 Blanshard St.  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5  
**Office Phone:** 250-387-3953 **Cell Phone:** s15, s17

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**From:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:32 AM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

Looks fine to me, I assume you are silent on possible opening, awaiting results of aerial assessment?

Jeff

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**From:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:26 AM  
**To:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX; Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

I have made Steve's edits – please have a look over this version:

- The aerial assessment of the site had to be delayed again this morning, due to continued low cloud cover and low visibility.
- The aerial assessment of the site, to assess the slope stability, will happen once visibility permits.
- In the meantime, crews continue to construct a rock berm along the westbound lanes to act as a means of added protection.
- The highway remains closed in both directions.
- We have continued to monitor the site and no new rock fall activity has been reported since the last rock fall activity on Tuesday.
- Traffic is still being advised to use Highway 5A as an alternate in Princeton and use Highway 97/97c alternate from Osoyoos and Kaleden Intersection south of Penticton.
- Please continue to check DriveBC for updates.

If the media ask any further questions, I advise that we ask them to call us back in the afternoon, and we will have another update at that time.

**Lisanne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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**Office Phone:** 250-387-3953 **Cell Phone:** s15, s17

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**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX

**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 10:19 AM

**To:** Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX

**Cc:** Bowness, Lisanne GCPE:EX; Tekano, Murray TRAN:EX

**Subject:** Re: Updated Bulletts - Highway 3

A few suggestions.

Bullet 2 - not sure if we want to say time. Could say once visibility permits.

Bullet 5 - instead of 40 hours, could say since last rock fall activity on tuesday.

Bullet 6 - hwy planning to be open even if assessment doesn't happen. Only new activity may delay opening it or if the assessment happens and identifys serious risk. Could just say - hwy May be open this evening provided it's safe to do so...

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 10:12 AM, "Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX" <[Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Wiseman@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

**Lisanne – Here are some draft bullets for our next update at around 10:30AM :**

## Henry, Audrie L TRAN:EX

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**From:** Sirett, Steve TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:13 PM  
**To:** Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Updated bullets: Highway 3 - for media calls

CBC and Penticton done.

Steve Sirett  
250-878-1834

On Jan 30, 2014, at 4:00 PM, "Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX" <[Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

For MO approval:

Here are the updated bullets, as approved by Rick Blixrud, Steve Sirett, and Murray Tekano.

Discovery Channel has a few extra questions, which I have added in below.

Steve to do the Discovery Channel interview as well as the Penticton Herald request, and the CBC Radio request.

**General update:**

- The geotech engineer was able to view the site from the air today, and confirms there are no concerns with the ministry's plan to build a temporary berm and open the highway to traffic later this evening, one lane in each direction.
- Crews are working to construct a rock berm along the westbound lanes to act as a means of added protection when the highway re-opens.
- Work is progressing on schedule and Highway 3 will re-open at 6:00 tonight to two way traffic - one lane in each direction.
- DriveBC has been updated with this information.

**Discovery Channel Questions:**

**1/ Weather conditions today - how does this affect monitoring the situation? Did you send a helicopter up?**

- Weather conditions have not affected the site monitoring. We were able to complete aerial inspection of the slope earlier this morning.

**2/ Building a berm: the plan (using fallen rock from site) to create a safety buffer. Can you explain how this works?**

- The berm is being constructed as a precautionary measure to reduce the potential for any rock fall reaching the travelled lanes.

**3/ Looking for a comment on what needs to happen (to ensure public safety) before the highway is opened.**

- The berm construction needs to be completed before the highway will be re-opened.

**4/ Importance of Highway 3 route (do you have numbers on traffic volumes typically travelling through this route?)**

- Highway 3 is an important inter-provincial and regional transportation corridor connecting the southern interior of the province to the lower mainland and Alberta. Traffic volumes are in the order of 2,300 vehicles per day.

**5/ Difference between geotech that went up initially vs. next geotech (are they from different departments? Different qualifications? Did the first findings escalate the response?)**

- The initial response was an overview assessment by regional geotechnical engineers. They do an initial check to determine stability of the slope, to ensure the safety of workers and the travelling public.
- The second group brought in were specialists in rockfall mitigation. They were brought in to do the detailed examination of the slope and provide advice prior to re-opening the highway.

**6/ Is it important to restore the communications lines on site?**

- Damaged telephone and power lines will be addressed by the utility companies. There are no concerns for any underground utilities.

**Lisanne Bowness**

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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