



Russell E. Hallbauer, P.Eng.  
President and CEO  
Taseko Mines Limited  
15<sup>th</sup> floor, 1040 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver BC V6E 4H1

Dear Mr. Hallbauer:

Thank you for your letter dated May 13, 2016, addressed to the Premier, which has been forwarded to the Legal Services Branch of the Ministry of Justice for response. I am responding on behalf of the Premier and the Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

In your letter, you note concerns regarding several issues related to Taseko's New Prosperity project.

First, we note your concerns regarding the federal environmental assessment process. You indicate that you are addressing those concerns before the courts.

With respect to the issue raised in the first paragraph on the second page of your letter, you are correct that the Ministry of Energy and Mines provided submissions to the federal review panel. The submissions included contributions of staff and consultants retained by that ministry to assist it with the submissions. As commonly occurs, there were technical discussions, evaluations and re-evaluations that occurred through several drafts that preceded the final technical submission. Ministry of Energy and Mines staff coordinated draft contributions from its staff and consultants to ensure that a fulsome technical evaluation of the project was clearly and accurately expressed. This resulted in the final version of submissions provided to the review panel that were signed by both staff and consultants.

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**Ministry of Justice**  
Legal Services Branch  
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With respect to your concerns about the review of Taseko's amendment application by the Environmental Assessment Office, your letter has been shared with that office and we are advised that it will be responding to that aspect of your letter.

Finally, you raise concerns about the signing of the Nenqay Deni Accord. The Nenqay Deni Accord is a framework agreement that establishes goals and objectives for further negotiations. The consultation processes identified in the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement remain valid while the subject matters in the Accord are negotiated. Environmental assessments are referenced in section 12.42 of the Accord which includes a commitment to explore opportunities to improve environmental assessment processes. As the commitments in the Accord are being negotiated, we will be engaging with a wide range of stakeholders including industry, local governments and communities.

In light of the above, we do not believe that it is necessary to respond to the options you have set out in your letter.

Sincerely,

Corinne Swystun  
Acting Assistant Deputy Attorney General

pc: The Honourable Christy Clark  
The Honourable Bill Bennett  
The Honourable Mary Polak  
The Honourable John Rustad  
Donna Barnett, MLA