

ADVICE TO MINISTER

**CONFIDENTIAL
GCPE-MEM ISSUE NOTE**

Ministry of Energy and Mines

Date: July 8, 2015 - update

Minister Responsible: Bill Bennett

Mount Polley restricted re-start applications

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Statutory Decision

Statutory decision-makers with the ministries of Energy and Mines and Environment have authorized the restricted re-start of Mount Polley Mine.

They have authorized the restricted re-start of Mount Polley Mine based on detailed information and input from subject matter experts, including geotechnical engineers, geoscientists and hydrologists.

Their due diligence, along with the public consultation that took place with this application provides confidence the permit could be issued without harming the environment.

First of Three Steps

This conditional restricted permit to re-start operations is the first of three significant steps the company needs to continue operation and does not include the ability to discharge water off the site.

In the early fall, the company will need a second conditional permit to treat and discharge water in order for operations to continue.

Lastly, the company must submit a long-term water treatment and discharge plan to government by June 30, 2016.

The mine will not be authorized to continue to operate long-term if it fails to complete either of the last two steps.

Continued Monitoring

When re-start operations commence, protection of the environment will be ensured through the terms and conditions contained within the permit, as well as ongoing monitoring by ministry staff.

Inspectors with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and Environment will be onsite during the initial start-up period and will conduct regular site inspections once the mine is operating.

If necessary, ministry inspectors have full authority to issue stop work orders for any area of the mine found to be in non-compliance.

Jobs

This decision is welcome news for the communities of Likely, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and the families that depend on the jobs the mine provides.

During restricted operations, the company expects to provide jobs for up to 220 workers.

Ongoing Investigations

The independent panel was mandated to identify the cause of the failure and make recommendations to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

The panel was not mandated to assess responsibility or liability. That is the mandate of the other two investigations currently still underway by the Conservation Officer Service and the Chief Inspector of Mines.

The Chief Inspector of Mines' independent investigation into the Mount Polley breach is expected to conclude this summer and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Justice for review.

If charges are contemplated, evidence from this investigation, including the report of the Chief Inspector of Mines, could be used in court, and as a result would not be released to the public immediately following the conclusion of the investigation.

An independent investigation into the cause of the Mount Polley tailings pond breach is being led by British Columbia's Conservation Officer Service (COS), and assisted by Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the RCMP.

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

On July 9, 2015 statutory decision-makers with the ministries of Energy and Mines and Environment conditionally authorized the Mount Polley Mine Corporation to begin restricted operations.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

The amended Mines Act permit authorizes the company to operate at roughly half the rate of normal operations. The tailings facility will not be utilized during the operation. Mount Polley Mine will use Springer Pit, an existing open pit on the mine site, to manage the tailings.

This permit amendment is the first of three significant steps the mine must complete and allows a return to restricted operations.

The second step the Mount Polley Mine Corporation must take is to apply to the Ministry of Environment for a short-term permit to treat and discharge water. Estimates provided by the Mount Polley Mine Company indicate that under normal precipitation conditions, regardless of whether the mine is operating, water levels in Springer Pit will reach permitted capacity in the fall of 2015. The addition of tailings in the pit does not substantially change this timeframe as the volume of tailings are expected to be relatively low compared to the capacity of Springer Pit.

If the Ministry of Environment approves the company's application, the short-term permit would allow the mine to treat and then discharge water outside of the mine site.

The company has provided information about its short-term water treatment and discharge proposal to the ministries of Energy and Mines and Environment. The Mount Polley Mine Corporation has shared this information with local First Nations, residents of Likely and discussed its proposed treatment and discharge plans at public forums in Likely, Williams Lake and Quesnel.

Under the company's short-term water management proposal, the treated water would be discharged into Hazeltine Creek where it would flow to a sediment pond. From there, the treated water would enter a pipeline that would discharge approximately 30 to 40 metres below the surface of Quesnel Lake. Any treated and discharged water will be required to meet Ministry of Environment guidelines for aquatic and public health.

The third step the company must complete is to submit a long-term water treatment and discharge plan to government by June 30, 2016. The Mount Polley Mine Corporation must complete all three of these steps in order to be able to continue operations.

The restricted restart permits only allow operations for one year. To continue operating, the company will have to submit a new plan for review and consultation and receive authorization from the statutory decision makers.

Communications Contact:	Glen Plummer	250 952-0559
Program Area Contact:	Tania Demchuk	250 952-0417
File Created:	April 15, 2015	
File Updated:	July 8, 2015	
File Location:	file:///S:\emcom.shr\OPERATIONS\Mt Polley Incident\Issues notes\	

Program Area	Comm. Director	Deputy	Minister's Office

MT POLLEY – CURRENT STATUS (MOE)

- While full environmental remediation will take years, the initial remediation and clean-up work done over the past year (Phase One) is truly impressive.
- Outcomes from Phase One included ensuring the water quality in Quesnel Lake met all provincial guidelines and ensuring there were no additional environmental or human health impacts.
- Interior Health has re-confirmed the water is safe to drink and is safe for both fish and recreation.
- Phase 2 is now underway and focuses on remediation through summer 2016 and beyond. First Nations and local communities are active participants in this phase.
- Water quality results for both drinking water and aquatic life continue to be posted monthly on the Mount Polley website.
- We are continuing to work closely with First Nations, the local communities and the mine to ensure a comprehensive long-term plan for monitoring, remediation and restoration is implemented.
- Water samples continue to be collected from Quesnel River at both the Likely Bridge and Gravelle Ferry Bridge sites and continue to show consistent results.

- The Province has overseen all environmental remediation and monitoring work done by the Mount Polley Mining Corporation and will continue to do so.
- The ministry has a monitoring and auditing plan in place and have reviewed and approved Mt. Polley's water, dust control and fish tissue monitoring plans for 2015.
- An application for the short term discharge (no more than 2 yrs) of treated mine effluent to Quesnel Lake is currently going through public consultation and is under review by the ministry and other agencies.

Background:

- The End of Phase One report was released on July 29, 2015 and showed significant progress had been made during the first year of clean-up and remediation.
- To meet the requirements outlined in the Pollution Abatement Order, Mount Polley Mining Corporation is executing the long-term mitigation and remediation plan in two phases:
 - Phase one ended in June and focused on human health and environmental safety.
 - Phase two focuses on long-term remediation and restoration.
- All deliverables for phase one were completed by the end of June, which included successfully implementing measures to ensure the increased water flow did not result in additional environmental or human health impacts.
- To-date, the ministry considers the following activities complete or suitably initiated:
 - Safety (e.g. woody debris removed from Quesnel Lake)
 - Containment of tailings
 - Monitoring
 - Protection of archaeological resources
 - Protection of fish
 - Erosion mitigation
 - Water treatment
 - Reporting
- Phase two will continue to focus on remediating the impacts of the breach through summer 2016 and beyond and will include an ecological and human health risk assessment. Ongoing impact assessment, monitoring and mitigation activities will also occur.
- The ministry has a monitoring and auditing plan in place and have reviewed and approved Mt. Polley's water, dust control and fish tissue monitoring plans for 2015.

- Authorization to deposit tailings from the restarted mill into Springer Pit was issued July 9. Effluent storage capacity at the mine will be exceeded in the near future and there will be a need to discharge treated mine effluent from the site
- Mount Polley submitted an application on July 16, 2015 to the ministry for short-term water discharge permit. Technical review will occur through the Cariboo Mine Development Review Committee and continue into September 2015. During this time there will be a 30-day public review and comment period.
- The short term water management discharge is not expected to be in place for any longer than 2 years. This is intended to enable assessment, development permit application review and construction of a long term water management system for the mine site.
- A long-term water management plan to discharge into the receiving environment is required to be provided to the Ministry by June 30, 2016.
- A series of public meetings were held in Likely, Williams Lake and Quesnel the week of June 22 to provide a status update as well as information on the Post-Event Environmental Impact Report and permit amendment process.
- British Columbians have a 90-day period, ending on September 12th, to provide input on the PEEIAR to ensure the most robust plan possible is put in place. The results of the PEEIAR and the feedback from local communities and First Nations will be used to inform the development of the Long Term Remediation and Restoration Plan due in Spring 2016.
- As of June 2015, the Ministry of Environment has taken over 190 water quality samples near the breach, in Polley Lake, Hazeltine Creek and Quesnel Lake and River; Mount Polley Mining Corporation has taken over 3,800.
- Latest water quality results show:
 - Levels of some metals, copper and aluminum are still recorded at levels above provincial guidelines for aquatic life in Quesnel Lake; however, these are in the total form which is far less bio available to aquatic life forms than the dissolved form.
 - Events with greater erosion result in more sediment going into Quesnel Lake. Spring melt higher erosion events are over and the complete length of Hazeltine Creek channel is now protected against erosion.
 - The Quesnel River at Gravelle Ferry monitoring site has recorded elevated levels of total phosphorous, chromium, copper and dissolved aluminum exceeding Aquatic life guidelines but this is the result of contributions from other tributaries to the Quesnel River downstream of Quesnel Lake, in particular the Cariboo River.
- Ministry-collected samples are sent to independent labs for analysis and reported online.
- With the reduced turbidity in Quesnel Lake and reduced potential for additional sediment from Hazeltine Creek, Mt. Polley stopped providing bottled water and filters to residents drawing water from Quesnel Lake at the end of May.

From: s.22 [mailto:s.22]
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 3:50 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX; Minister, MEM
MEM:EX; Bunce, Hubert ENV:EX
Subject: Mount Polley Discharge Permit

s.22

November 29, 2015

Open Letter to the BC Provincial Government Re: Mount Polley Mining Corporation's
'Discharge Pipeline to Quesnel Lake Management Plan'

Dear

Christy Clark, (premier@gov.bc.ca)

Jennifer McGuire (Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)

Bill Bennett (MEM.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Hubert Bunce (Hubert.Bunce@gov.bc.ca)

I am a graduate student at the University of British Colombia and I am writing today as a deeply concerned citizen in response to various news articles I have read recently in the Globe and Mail, the Vancouver Sun and the Williams Lake Tribune about the risk of a second Mount Polley disaster. I am concerned that the government is going to grant Mount Polley Mining Corporation with a water discharge permit into Quesnel Lake. Based on the "Discharge Pipeline to Quesnel Lake Management Plan" submitted to the provincial government by the company, I do not trust that due diligence has been given to the ecological and health impacts that the discharge may cause nor do I believe that the position of the First Nations communities has been respected. How is it that a mere 15 months after the Mount Polley tailings storage facility catastrophe, panic is being spread in the media by the mayor of Williams Lake, over the potential for a second spill? Whether this panic is warranted or not, how it is that the level of Springer pit has been permitted to rise to the point where preventing it from reaching its capacity requires channelling the processed mine's waste water into Quesnel Lake?

The mayor of Williams Lake, Walt Cobb, seems to think that the delay of the Mount Polley's discharge permit is unacceptable given that the mine has invested in a \$2 million water filtration plant. I believe that the amount of money Mount Polley Mining Corporation has spent on the water treatment facility is irrelevant. The provincial government's decision on the discharge permit application should be based on the position of Soda Creek and Williams Lake bands, both of whom disapprove of the proposal and upon whose un-ceded territory this mine operates; as well as on the potential for harm to be inflicted on the aquatic system and the life that depends on the aquatic system in the immediate and distance future.

I believe that the potential effects of discharging the mine's waste water into Quesnel Lake are not very well understood and it is necessary to prevent potentially, lasting impacts on the aquatic system by not approving the discharge permit. When the effects of an industry's operations are uncertain there is a duty and an obligation to take measures that will prevent harm. At this point I feel that discharge approval should not be granted and something else should be done. Whether that means suspension of operations or an alternative mechanism to manage the mine's waste water are two options that should be considered. The Veolia treatment facility will only manage to remove most of the solid sediments, meaning that there will still be dissolved minerals in the

water that at the point of discharge will not meet BC's water quality guidelines. This is unacceptable.

After reading Mount Polley Mining Corporation's "Discharge Pipeline to Quesnel Lake Management Plan" submitted to the Government of British Columbia Front Counter on July 23, 2015 I have a number of questions that I believe are the government's duty to respond to publically. These include:

- What will the quality be of the water coming out of the treatment plant?
- How will this be monitored and regulated?
- What will the concentrations of dissolved and total minerals be in the discharged water?
- What are the potential effects associated with those concentration levels?
- What will the concentration of minerals be within the initial 100m dilution zone given that the company has stated that beyond that point the water will meet BC water quality guideline?
- What will the immediate effects of discharging be on the aquatic system?
- How might these effects change with long-term exposure to minerals?
- How will the waste generated by the active-sedimentation process in the Veolia water treatment plant be managed?
- How will water be managed in the spring when Springer pit is predicted to reach capacity?
- What are the other options to discharging into Quesnel Lake and how are they being evaluated?

In my opinion, panic is being utilized in the media and in correspondence with the provincial government in an attempt to urgently prompt a potentially irresponsible and shameful decision that would favour an already negligent corporation over ensuring and safeguarding the life and health of an already damaged and altered ecosystem. I trust that the questions I am asking here are question that you yourselves are asking prior to making a decision on the "Discharge Pipeline to Quesnel Lake Management Plan"

Sincerely,
s.22

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Bill Bennett (MEM.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Hubert Bunce (Hubert.Bunce@gov.bc.ca)

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How is it that a mere 15 months after the Mount Polley tailings storage facility catastrophe, panic is being spread in the media by the mayor of Williams Lake, over the potential for a second spill? Whether this panic is warranted or not, how it is that the level of Springer pit has been permitted to rise to the point where preventing it from reaching its capacity requires channelling the processed mine's waste water into Quesnel Lake?

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Sincerely,
s.22

From: s.22 [mailto:s.22]
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 3:01 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, MEM MEM:EX; jsorley@cariboord.ca; Min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; Minister, JTST JTST:EX
Cc: Eric McLean; Kim; Jeff&Shannon;
Subject: Quesnel Lake Tailing Pond

July 22, 2015

The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
premier@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Energy and Mines
The Honourable Bill Bennett
Mem.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cariboo District MLA Joan Sorley
jsorley@cariboord.ca

The Honourable Gail Shea
House of Commons
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Ministry of Tourism
The Honourable Shirley Bond
JTST.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Sir/Madame;

I am required to provide relevant information to show that my family and I are being adversely affected by the proposed amendment / permit;

RE: Permit to dump mine waste/toxins into the Quesnel Lake / Hazeltine Creek

The BC government has approved a Mount Polley Mine re-start permit, to a company that has no safe place to dump the toxic waste from their industrial mining site.

Now they are submitting an application to dump that toxic waste into Hazeltine Creek and Quesnel Lake.

Again this is the company's MO; temporary ideas that become permanent solutions! Responsible would have had the company building a water treatment plant the day they opened the mine. We still don't have any idea what the tailings water and slurry that was released into the lake last August is actually doing to the Lake! Why would the government even consider more toxic

water being dumped into the lake?

This is a direct quote from the company's website about their Environmental Policy's;

....Throughout our operations one of the key commitments is to maintain water quality that sustains aquatic life. Aquatic life is the most sensitive user of water; therefore by protecting aquatic ecosystems other water users (recreational, drinking water and wildlife) are also protected. The long term water quality is closely monitored to ensure the requisite water quality criteria to protect aquatic life are achieved."

I see the government has asked for millions of dollars as a bond to ensure the company cleans up the mine site, however what assurance do the local residents have that if the government allows this action - dumping toxic waste into the water way, that the homeowners will be compensated, when the lake is polluted. Our land values have already been lowered by tens of thousands of dollars. How do you compensate a person who chooses to live here because of the very things this mine site is about to destroy, the fish habitat, salmon, lake trout, the animals! One evening last summer before the tailing pond failure we witnessed a mother grizzly with 3 babies swim from Cariboo Island to Horsefly Bay. I'm sure other residents have similar stories. I don't think you all have any idea about this area, about Quesnel Lake area! Hazeltine Creek has fish returning to it, this is a problem because your own Environmental policy doesn't allow for you to dump toxins in fish bearing waterways? your solution is to remove the fish!!!

Our enjoyment of Quesnel Lake has been taken from us, our land value has been taken from us, and our quality of life has been taken from us! My family and I came to Quesnel Lake because of the pristine ecosystem; fishing, hunting, water sports, healthy air, healthy water, healthy land. This was to be a place where we could come to rest in our old age. This was to be a place where we could share with our family the beauty of British Columbia.

Since the tailings pond failure, we are afraid to drink the water, we are afraid to swim in the water, we will not eat the fish from this water, and we will not eat animals raised around this water. Our friends and families are staying away from this once pristine area.

I no longer hold the Mine responsible for the damage they are about to do, they are a business that needs to be profitable, their premise is greed! I hold you, the government responsible for allowing these permits to stand, you have been entrusted by the people to be stewards of the land and water!

You have absolutely no conclusive idea what damage has already been done by the tailing pond failure - why would you allow MORE pollution to enter this water way.

Do NOT approve the temporary dumping of toxic waste water into Quesnel Lake, we don't even know if the lake will survive what has already been dumped!

Quesnel Tailing Pond - how does that sound to you?

Regards,

s.22

s.22

cc

Mount Polley Mining Corporation
Dale Reimer, General Manager
inquiries@imperialmetals.com

Ministry of Environment
Hubert Bunce, Director of Mining Operation
MtPolleyMinePermit@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Energy and Mines
Al Hoffman, Chief Inspector
MtPolleyMinePermit@gov.bc.ca

From: s.22 [mailto:s.22]
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 2:24 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: Mount Polley Mine

April 28, 2015

The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
premier@gov.bc.ca

Mount Polley Mining Corporation
Dale Reimer, General Manager
inquiries@imperialmetals.com

Ministry of Environment
Hubert Bunce, Director of Mining Operation
MtPolleyMinePermit@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Energy and Mines
Al Hoffman, Chief Inspector
MtPolleyMinePermit@gov.bc.ca

Dear Sir/Madame;

I am required to provide relevant information to show that my family and I are being adversely affected by the proposed amendments / permits;

RE: Permit to Restart Mount Polley Mine
Permit to dump toxins into the Quesnel Lake / Hazeltine Creek

My family and I came to Quesnel Lake because of the pristine ecosystem; fishing, hunting, water sports, healthy air, healthy water, healthy land. This was to be a place where we could come to rest in our old age. This was to be a place where we could share with our family the beauty of British Columbia.

Since the tailings pond failure, we are afraid to drink the water, we are afraid to swim in the water, we will not eat the fish from this water, and we will not eat animals raised around this water. Our friends and families are staying away from this once pristine area.

Our enjoyment of Quesnel Lake has been taken from us, our land value has been taken from us, and our quality of life has been taken from us!

Imperial Metals has predicted another tailing pond disaster July 2015. The Springer Pitt tailings and collected mine site water at Mount Polley mine will top its banks. Is this responsible water management by the Mine? Imperial Metals' treatment plan is to use lime to clean 60% of the

heavy metals out of the tailings. Is a 40% toxic waste dump into a Fraser River watershed an acceptable risk to the province? It is not an acceptable risk to the residents of Quesnel Lake. Why would we allow this in Imperial Metal's permit request? What will the lime do to the pH level of the water? If this method of processing toxic tailings water with lime works, and is good for our environment and our health, why is this not standard procedure for all Mines across BC and then dump their tailings water directly into the environment?

Mount Polley Mine and Imperial Metals has spent no time or money on an alternative plan there is NO alternative plan. What will happen if we say NO to the temporary permit to dump more toxic waste into Quesnel Lake? Mount Polley Mine will have 2 months to figure out a different water treatment plan! They have already told us if we do not approve this permit to release 40% toxic water into the Hazelton or Quesnel Lake directly we will have another tailing ponds disaster in July!

We feel like we have a gun to our heads the Government and 1st Nations said no to Mount Polley Mine to release toxic tailing pond water into the Hazelton in 2013 and look what happened WHAT HAPPENS IF WE SAY NO TO THIS COMPANY AGAIN!!!

This is the company's MO; temporary ideas that become permanent solutions! Responsible would have had the company building a water treatment plant the day they opened the mine. We still don't have any idea what the tailings water and slurry that was released into the lake last August is actually doing to the Lake! Why would the government even consider more toxic water being dumped into the lake?

I would like to see the people put back to work in this area; our small community needs the jobs however there is NO REASON that this company should not be held responsible and accountable to their employees, the community, area residents, and the environment! TREAT THE WATER to 100% before dumping it back into the environment!

This is a direct quote from the company's website about their Environmental Policy's;

....Throughout our operations one of the key commitments is to maintain water quality that sustains aquatic life. Aquatic life is the most sensitive user of water; therefore by protecting aquatic ecosystems other water users (recreational, drinking water and wildlife) are also protected. The long term water quality is closely monitored to ensure the requisite water quality criteria to protect aquatic life are achieved."

At the very least we need to have in place an approved long term water treatment plan, a plan that the community has some input on, as we are the property owners and we have to live with this mine in our back yard for the rest of our lives and our family's lives!

We need answers to our concerns and we need to be allowed to be directly involved in the decision making;

1) Dam Report: that dam repairs are described in detail, and that we are provided with the dam design plus the "as-built" drawings and reports.

2) Water Management: A new Mill Recycle Water Pond must be constructed, for a location of water volumes to be discharged from the Tailings Impoundment and to enable Mill production. There should be an approved Water Management Plan, reviewed and distributed to everyone. This "plan" and management implementation will be required not only throughout the life of the mine, but into Closure Phase, since water cannot be allowed to accumulate within the tailings impoundment. Weather Pattern and Climate Trend plus groundwater discharges within the impoundment itself will assure that this structure will accumulate water volumes that must be managed, forever.

3) Water Treatment Plant; design, operational requirement, discharge dilution requirements/Permit....and treatment plant sludge disposal area. This is absolutely necessary; construction must be completed this year, 2015.

4) Open Pit Mine Waste Disposal. A Waste Handling Plan must be approved; we need a copy of that plan.

5) Acid Rock Drainage geochemistry we want the company to distribute their lab work on ARD.

Do NOT approve the opening of the mine until Imperial Metals/ Mount Polley Mine Corp., have an APPROVED water treatment plan and has implemented the plan (installed a water treatment plant.) Imperial can employ the area workers to help build their water treatment plant!

Do NOT approve the temporary dumping of toxic water into Quesnel Lake, what you have and are allowing to be dumped in now and for the last 9 months is ENOUGH. We don't even know if the lake will survive what has already been dumped!

s.22

CC The Honourable Gail Shea
House of Commons
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Ministry of Energy and Mines
The Honourable Bill Bennett
Mem.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Tourism
The Honourable Shirley Bond
JTST.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cariboo District MLA Joan Sorley
jsorley@cariboord.ca

McPhee, Jordan PREM:EX

From: McPhee, Jordan PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 10:05 AM
To: Mills, Shane LASS:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Mt.Polley IB this afternoon
Attachments: IB_Mt Polley short-term discharge_Nov 30_2015.docx

FYI

From: Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 9:25 AM
To: McPhee, Jordan PREM:EX
Cc: Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Mt.Polley IB this afternoon

Hi Jordan - FYI – MEM will be putting out the attached IB mid-afternoon today around 3. The short-term discharge permit was signed yesterday by the statutory decision maker (Jennifer McGuire) and will be given to the company early this afternoon; First Nations will also be notified at that time. MEM MO is giving MLA Barnett a heads-up as well.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Environment

[release number]

November 30, 2015

Mount Polley short-term discharge permit approved

WILLIAMS LAKE – After thorough public consultation, the Province has approved Mount Polley Mining Corporation's application for a short-term permit to treat and then discharge water outside of the mine site.

The permit is needed because it is estimated that, under normal precipitation conditions, water levels in Springer Pit will reach permitted capacity in April 2016. Springer Pit is an existing open pit on the mine site where tailings are currently being managed.

In accordance with the approved short-term water treatment and discharge permit, treated water will be discharged into Hazeltine Creek and flow to a sediment pond. From there, the treated water would enter a pipeline that will discharge approximately 30 to 40 metres below the surface of Quesnel Lake.

Any treated and discharged water will be required to meet Ministry of Environment water quality guidelines for aquatic and public health.

Final approval was made by a statutory decision maker from the Ministry of Environment after a 30-day public consultation and comment period and a comprehensive technical review by the Cariboo Mine Development Review Committee.

The committee includes representatives from provincial agencies, First Nations, local governments (City of Williams Lake and Cariboo Regional District), the community of Likely, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada. There was extensive engagement with the Williams Lake Indian Band and Soda Creek Indian Band as well as the residents of Likely.

The approval of this permit is the second of three steps the company needs to continue operation.

The first step was authorization, from both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Energy and Mines in July, for the company to conditionally re-start restricted operations. One of the re-start conditions was to have government approve the short-term water discharge permit. The final step for Mount Polley Mining Corporation will be to submit a long-term water treatment and discharge plan by June 30, 2016.

Learn More:

For more information, please visit: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/eemp/incidents/2014/mount-polley/>

Contact:
Media Relations
Ministry of Environment
250 953-3834

Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX

From: Government of British Columbia <GCPE.News@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 3:00 PM
To: Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX
Subject: Mount Polley short-term discharge permit approved

For Immediate Release
2015ENV0076-001994
Nov. 30, 2015

Ministry of Environment

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Mount Polley short-term discharge permit approved

WILLIAMS LAKE - After thorough public consultation, the Province has approved Mount Polley Mining Corporation's application for a short-term permit to treat and then discharge water outside of the mine site.

The permit is needed because it is estimated that, under normal precipitation conditions, water levels in Springer Pit will reach permitted capacity in April 2016. Springer Pit is an existing open pit on the mine site where tailings are currently being managed.

In accordance with the approved short-term water treatment and discharge permit, treated water will be discharged into Hazeltine Creek and flow to a sediment pond. From there, the treated water would enter a pipeline that will discharge approximately 30 to 40 metres below the surface of Quesnel Lake.

Any treated and discharged water will be required to meet Ministry of Environment water quality guidelines for aquatic and public health.

Final approval was made by a statutory decision maker from the Ministry of Environment after a 30-day public consultation and comment period and a comprehensive technical review by the Cariboo Mine Development Review Committee.

The committee includes representatives from provincial agencies, First Nations, local governments (City of Williams Lake and Cariboo Regional District), the community of Likely, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada. There was extensive engagement with the Williams Lake Indian Band and Soda Creek Indian Band as well as the residents of Likely.

The approval of this permit is the second of three steps the company needs to continue operation.

The first step was authorization, from both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Energy and Mines in July, for the company to conditionally re-start restricted operations. One of the re-start conditions was to have government approve the short-term water discharge permit. The final step for Mount Polley Mining Corporation will be to submit a long-term water treatment and discharge plan by June 30, 2016.

Learn More:

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/eemp/incidents/2014/mount-polley/>

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Environment
250 953-3834

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Cadario, Michele PREM:EX

From: De Wit, Antoinette PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 11:59 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX
Cc: Petrie, Cynthia MEM:EX
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Yes, I alerted Martina about it yesterday ... will work with her and her ministry people for input on text for a Premier's signature. Thanks.

From: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 11:58 AM
To: De Wit, Antoinette PREM:EX; Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Netty,

For response from the Premier.

Martina – FYI

Michele

*Michele Cadario
Deputy Chief of Staff to Premier Christy Clark*

From: Barnett, Donna [<mailto:D.Barnett@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Subject: Fw: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Barnett.MLA, Donna <Donna.Barnett.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 4:36 PM
To: Barnett, Donna
Cc: Gavin, Bonnie
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

From: Kim Dressler <kdressler@williamslake.ca>
Sent: November 18, 2015 4:19:48 PM
To: premier@gov.bc.ca; Steve Robertson; Bennett.MLA, Bill; Polak.MLA, Mary; Barnett.MLA, Donna; Oakes.MLA,

Coralee

Cc: Tribune; rebecca@thegoatlocks.ca

Subject: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Please see attached correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb.

Kim Dressler, BA, B.Ed.

Executive Assistant

City of Williams Lake

450 Mart St.

Williams Lake, BC V2G 1N3

Tel: 250-392-1775

Fax: 250-392-4408

Email: kdressler@williamslake.ca

Web: www.williamslake.ca

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Cadario, Michele PREM:EX

From: Barnett, Donna <D.Barnett@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Subject: Fw: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit
Attachments: 20151118162022937.pdf

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Please see attached correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb.

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Cadario, Michele PREM:EX

From: Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 12:00 PM
To: De Wit, Antoinette PREM:EX
Cc: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Petrie, Cynthia MEM:EX
Subject: Re: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Sounds good. Thanks. M

On Nov 19, 2015, at 11:59 AM, De Wit, Antoinette PREM:EX <Antoinette.DeWit@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Yes, I alerted Martina about it yesterday ... will work with her and her ministry people for input on text for a Premier's signature. Thanks.

From: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 11:58 AM
To: De Wit, Antoinette PREM:EX; Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Netty,

For response from the Premier.

Martina – FYI

Michele

*Michele Cadario
Deputy Chief of Staff to Premier Christy Clark*

From: Barnett, Donna [<mailto:D.Barnett@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Subject: Fw: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

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Sent: November 18, 2015 4:19:48 PM

To: premier@gov.bc.ca; Steve Robertson; Bennett.MLA, Bill; Polak.MLA, Mary; Barnett.MLA, Donna; Oakes.MLA, Coralee

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Subject: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Please see attached correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb.

Kim Dressler, BA, B.Ed.
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE

450 MART STREET, WILLIAMS LAKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA V2G 1N3
TELEPHONE 250-392-2311 FAX 250-392-4408

November 18, 2015

File No. 0530-08

VIA EMAIL:

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia

Dear Premier Clark:

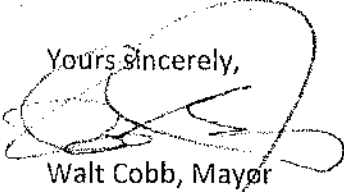
RE: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Council considered the above matter at its regular meeting held November 17, 2015. Quoted hereunder is Resolution No. 424/15 as passed at that meeting.

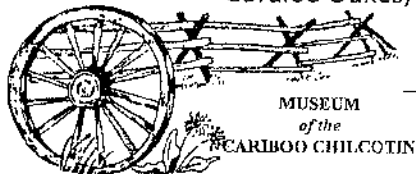
"That the Council of the City of Williams Lake stress to the Premier and Minister of Environment the importance of having the water discharge permit issued immediately to Mount Polley underlining the significant potential job losses to the Region as well as the undue stress and impacts being created on the employees, families and residents because of the development of a process that has created the inability for the government to provide a positive investment climate within these guidelines and resulting in further jeopardizing Mount Polley's ability to continue to invest in reclamation; and further, have created a potential environmental disaster by not issuing the water discharge permit in a timely manner."

I cannot state more emphatically that, unless the permit is issued immediately, Mount Polley Mine will experience another breach. Due to heavy snowfall, the water is rising at a significantly accelerated level; should the water discharge permit not be granted immediately, our region will suffer another environmental disaster. Further delay will be catastrophic - environmentally, economically, and socially. The blame for this will be solely with the Ministry.

Yours Sincerely,


Walt Cobb, Mayor
City of Williams Lake

c: Steve Robertson, Imperial Metals Corporation
Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy & Mines
Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Environment
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin
Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North



www.williamslake.ca



Cadario, Michele PREM:EX

From: McPhee, Jordan PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 10:05 AM
To: Mills, Shane LASS:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Mt.Polley IB this afternoon
Attachments: IB_Mt Polley short-term discharge_Nov 30_2015.docx

FYI

From: Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 9:25 AM
To: McPhee, Jordan PREM:EX
Cc: Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Mt.Polley IB this afternoon

Hi Jordan - FYI – MEM will be putting out the attached IB mid-afternoon today around 3. The short-term discharge permit was signed yesterday by the statutory decision maker (Jennifer McGuire) and will be given to the company early this afternoon; First Nations will also be notified at that time. MEM MO is giving MLA Barnett a heads-up as well.

Cadario, Michele PREM:EX

From: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 11:58 AM
To: 'Barnett, Donna'
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Thanks Donna.

I will follow up.

Michele

*Michele Cadario
Deputy Chief of Staff to Premier Christy Clark*

From: Barnett, Donna [<mailto:D.Barnett@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 10:45 AM
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To: premier@gov.bc.ca; Steve Robertson; Bennett.MLA, Bill; Polak.MLA, Mary; Barnett.MLA, Donna; Oakes.MLA, Coralee
Cc: Tribune; rebecca@thegoatocks.ca
Subject: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

Please see attached correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb.

Kim Dressler, BA, B.Ed.
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Attachments: 20151118162022937.pdf

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For response from the Premier.

Martina – FYI

Michele

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Deputy Chief of Staff to Premier Christy Clark

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Subject: Fw: Correspondence from Mayor Walt Cobb re: Mount Polley Mine Water Discharge Permit

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