



Ministry of Environment  
Inspection Record

Environmental  
 Protection  
 Division

<b>Inspection Number:</b> 19565		<b>Inspection Status:</b> FINAL	
EP System: <u>AMS</u>		Inspection Date: 2015-02-25	
EP System Number: 11678		EP System Status: <u>Active</u>	
<b>Region:</b> <u>Cariboo</u>		Office: <u>Williams Lake</u>	
Trigger: <u>Incident</u>		<b>Incidents of Non-Compliance Observed:</b> <u>Yes</u>	
Non-Compliance Decision Matrix Level: <u>Level 1</u>		Non-Compliance Decision Matrix Category: <u>Category B</u>	
Inspector Name(s): Jack Green		CPIX: <u>1 to 2 = Medium</u>	
Audit:		Total Non-Compliance(s): 3	
<b>Regulated Party:</b> Mount Polley Mining Corporation			
Regulated Party Contact(s): Colleen Hughes			
<b>Legal Address:</b> PO Box 12 Likely, BC VOL 1N0			
Phone No: (250)790-2215		Fax No:	
Contact Email: chughes@mountpolley.com			
<b>Location Description or Site Address:</b> Mount Polley is an open pit copper/gold mine located near Likely, BC.			
Latitude: 52.54547 N		Longitude: 121.63433 W	
Receiving Environment(s): <u>Surfacewater</u>			

# Summary

<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS</b>	
Inspection Period: <b>From:</b> 2015-02-14 <b>To:</b> 2015-02-14	
<b>Requirement Source:</b> Permit	
Activity: <u>Office Review</u>	Waste Type: <u>Effluent</u>
<b>Inspection Summary:</b> <p>At 1:00am on 14 February 2015 the pump watch labourer at the Central Collection Sump (CCS) noticed that the berm at the overflow culverts at the SE corner of the CCS had been washed out by water and that water was flowing along the Polley Access Road (PAR) and ultimately into Hazeltine Creek.</p> <p>By 2:00am a berm had been constructed to divert this flow away from Hazeltine Creek and into the Till Borrow Pit. This proved effective in redirecting the majority of the flow, however there was some ongoing seepage through the berm, into Hazeltine Creek. By 12:00pm this berm had been reinforced and seepage had ceased.</p> <p>A third vertical turbine pump was connected at the CCS and the water level was lowered to below the outlet culverts, however, due to the extent of the initial washout, there is still some seepage to the Till Borrow Pit.</p> <p>The water level in the Till Borrow Pit remains low and extra pumps have been installed as a contingency.</p> <p>The root causes of the berm failure have been identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- an extreme rainfall event (approximately 10mm/hr) which occurred between 7:30pm and 8:00pm on the evening of 13 February 2015;</li><li>- possible inadequate compaction of the material surrounding the culverts; and</li><li>- blockage of the culverts under the PAR road which would have directed the flow towards the Till Borrow Pits, away from Hazeltine Creek.</li></ul> <p>The total volume of the water to enter Hazeltine Creek is unknown and no samples were collected at the time of the incident, although previous water quality results of the CCS were provided.</p>	<b>Response:</b> <u>Advisory</u>
<b>ACTIONS REQUIRED BY REGULATED PARTY:</b> <p>In response to the advisory letter issued to Mount Polley of 18 February 2015, which has since been withdrawn, Mount Polley has provided the required information regarding the results of inspections of all mine-affected water control works, the adequacy and integrity of mine-affected water control works and improvements undertaken. No further actions are required.</p>	
<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>  	

<b>Compliance Summary</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Out</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/D</b>
Operations	0	2	0	0
Reporting	0	1	0	0

## Inspection Details

<p><b>Requirement Type: <u>Reporting</u></b></p> <p><b>Requirement Description:</b></p> <p>2.1 Maintenance of Works and Emergency Procedures</p> <p>The Permittee must inspect the pollution control works regularly and maintain them in good working order. In the event of an emergency or condition beyond the control of the Permittee which prevents continuing operation of the approved method of pollution control or which impairs the operation of approved works, the Permittee must notify Environmental Protection: By telephone (250-398-4530) if the condition occurs between the hours of 08:00 and 16:30, Monday to Friday on normal working days; and,  By facsimile transmission (250-398-4214) if the condition occurs at any other time.  All such reports must be received within 24 hours of detection of the occurrence.  In addition, emergencies involving spills to the environment (as defined in the Spill Reporting Regulation) must be reported immediately to the Provincial Emergency Program (1-800-663-3456).</p> <p><b>Details/Findings:</b></p> <p>Inspections of all sumps are conducted daily. At 2:30pm on 13 February 2015 the CCS was inspected by Don Parsons and Lee Nikl (Golder Associates) and was found to have adequate freeboard.  The fact that the sump failed indicates that it was not "in good working order".  Notification was provided to Environmental Protection and to PEP as required.</p> <p><b>Compliance: <u>Out</u></b></p>
<p><b>Requirement Type: <u>Operations</u></b></p> <p><b>Requirement Description:</b></p> <p>2.2 Bypasses</p> <p>The discharge of effluent which has bypassed the designated treatment works is prohibited unless the approval of the Director is obtained and confirmed in writing.</p> <p><b>Details/Findings:</b></p> <p>Due to the unexpected nature of this incident, no approval was obtained from the Director.</p> <p><b>Compliance: <u>Out</u></b></p>
<p><b>Requirement Type: <u>Operations</u></b></p> <p><b>Requirement Description:</b></p> <p>2.4.3 Surface runoff control works must be provided for all areas disturbed by roads, open pits, rock disposal sites, and the mill and ore storage area. The surface runoff control system must convey all flows up to a 1 in 10 year 24-hour storm event, and must withstand all flows up to a 1 in 200 year 24-hour storm event without significant damage.</p> <p><b>Details/Findings:</b></p> <p>While there was a significant storm event on 13 February 2015, it did not constitute a 1 in 200 year 24-</p>

hour storm event and resulted in significant damage to the CCS.

**Compliance:** Out

**Were the following collected during inspection:**

Samples?  Photos?

EMS Number

**Other (please specify)**

Is the Inspection related to an EA Project?

EA Project Certificate Number:

**INSPECTION CONDUCTED BY:**

*Signature*

Jack Green

*Date Signed*

2015-03-05

**ENCLOSURE(S) TO REGULATED PARTY & DESCRIPTION:**

CVIS Archives

**REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS:**

**DISCLAIMER:**

Please note that sections of the permit, regulation or code of practice referenced in this inspection record are for guidance and are not the official version. Please refer to the original permit, regulation or code of practice.

To see the most up to date version of regulations and codes of practices please visit:

<http://www.bclaws.ca/>

If you require a copy of the original permit, please contact the inspector noted on this inspection record or visit: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=DF89089126D042FD96DF5D8C1D8B1E41&title=Publicly%20Viewable%20Authorizations>

It is also important to note that this inspection record does not necessarily reflect each requirement or condition of the authorization therefore compliance is noted only for the requirements or conditions listed in the inspection record.

**Ministry of Environment**

**Cariboo Region**

Environmental Protection Division

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