

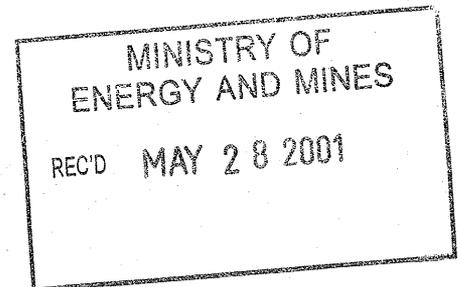


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## MOUNT POLLEY MINING CORPORATION

A DIVISION OF IMPERIAL METALS CORPORATION



May 21, 2001

Chris Carr, P. Eng.  
Manager, Geotechnical Engineer  
Mines Branch, Energy and Minerals Division  
Ministry of Energy and Mines  
PO Box 9320 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8W 9N3

Dear Sir:

**Re: Geotechnical Inspection Report – Mount Polley Mine - April 25, 2001**

Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC) is in receipt of the geotechnical inspection report dated May 03, 2001, my response follows.

**Proposed West Dumps**

Your comment; *“Failure of the proposed West Dumps towards Bootjack Lake is not acceptable (based on information received from the Mines Branch regional office) therefore the 1040 (1080) West Dump and the 1130 West Dump should be designed and constructed accordingly. A review of the dump design shall therefore be carried out following a risk analysis based on the consequence of failure.”*

Our geotechnical consultants, Golder Associates Ltd. reviewed the runout potential for failure debris that may be generated from potential failures of the proposed West Dumps. The report titled; Failure Runout Assessment of the Proposed West Dumps dated February 2001 is in draft and will be forwarded to your office shortly. The draft report notes that maximum runout distances for the various sections do not exceed 140 metres. As a consequence, the dumps were designed and will be constructed so the runout should it occur, will not reach Bootjack Lake.

Your comment; *“Pre-draining wet areas, local foundation stripping of weak soils and avoidance of steep terrain should be considered in the design. The requirement for monitoring dump slopes during construction should also be reviewed.”*

Golder Associates Ltd. addressed the overall stability of the West Rock Disposal Sites. The report titled; A Stability Review of the Proposed West Dumps dated March 2000 states ‘... the 1,040 and the 1130 metre platforms of the proposed West Dumps are expected to exhibit adequate stability during construction and over the long term, provided that the toe west side of the dumps are

*founded on slopes that are inclined at less than 15 degrees*'. This report was submitted to the Cariboo Mine Development Committee in 1999.

The relevant sections of the report are;

- Section 7.0: Water Management refers to *'re-establishing natural drainage and pre-draining these areas prior to dump development.'*
- Section 6.0: Dump Stability Monitoring refers to *'Localized areas of weak foundation soils have been identified.'* and *'threshold displacement rates are recommended as a guide for controlling the dump operations.'*

The West Dump designs have evolved through iterative consultation with Golder Associates Ltd. Our consultants have recommended development plans, which will be followed during dump construction. MPMC have implemented safe dumping procedures. Copies were forwarded to your office in 1999.

- Mine Operations Procedure: Mine Dumping. The procedure was developed in 1998 and updated May 1999.
- Mine Operations Procedure: Dump Monitors. The procedure was developed July 1999.

Golder Associates Ltd. will continue to provide geotechnical engineering consulting services through all aspects of dump construction.

#### **Cariboo Pit**

No concerns.

#### **Bell Pit**

Your comment; *"A review of the pit geology and wall design is to be carried out by Golder Associates."*

The next geotechnical review of active pit and dump areas by Golder Associates is planned for May 24, 2001

#### **Springer Pit**

No concerns.

#### **Waste Dumps**

Your comment; *"Development of the West Dumps will require that a new mine access road be built in the vicinity of the North Dump. Dump design and construction practices for development of the North Dump shall be reviewed to ensure the safety of road users."*

Golder Associates Ltd recently prepared two geotechnical reports. Both reports document recent North Dump and North Access Road redesigns after extensive field reconnaissance work and stability analysis in Fall 2000. The reports titled; A Review of the Stability of the Proposed North Rock Disposal Site dated December 2000 and North Access Road Stability Review dated March 2001 will be forwarded to your office.

## Tailings Facilities

Your comment; *"It is understood that a design document will be submitted to the Ministry for review prior to permitting the dam raise in 2001."*

Construction drawings for a lift to 945 meters and a letter of application to amend the M-200 permit were submitted May 15, 2001.

Your comment; *"The Ministry would strongly support the installation of two slope inclinometers at the downstream toe buttress to monitor potential dam and/or foundation movement. The slope inclinometers should extend through the underlying glaciolacustrine sediments."*

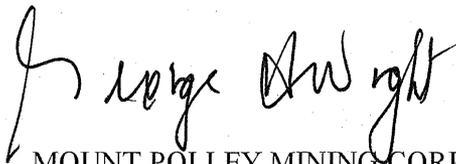
The matter has been forwarded to our geotechnical consultants, Knight Piesold Ltd. for review.

Your comment; *"The location of the tailings pipeline along the perimeter embankment creates a potential risk of embankment washout in the event that the pipeline were to rupture. The pipeline shall be relocated to the upstream crest of the new cyclone sand berm at the earliest opportunity. Regular monitoring shall be carried out until such time as the pipeline is moved."*

The tailings pipeline was relocated onto the tailings beach on the upstream side of the perimeter embankment during the week of May 8, 2001.

We trust that the information meets your requirements.

Yours truly,



MOUNT POLLEY MINING CORPORATION

George Wight

General Manager

cc: Dave Morgan, Ministry of Energy and Mines  
Dave Pow, Ministry of Energy and Mines  
Ed Beswick, Ministry of Energy and Mines