Ministry of Environment

Inspection Record

Environmental Protection Division

EP System: AMS

Inspection Status: *FINAL*

System Number: 105179

Inspection No: **1991**

EP System Status: *Active*

Inspection Date: 2012-05-11

Region: Skeena

Office: Smithers

Trigger: Incident

Incidents of Non-Compliance Observed: No

Non-Compliance Decision Matrix Level:
Level 1 - No impact likely

Non-Compliance Decision Matrix Category:
Category A - No previous NCs, good awareness/attitude

Inspector Name(s):
Lisa Torunski

Risk Ranking:
0 to 1 = Low

Audit:

Total Non-Compliance(s): *0*

Regulated Party:
CHEIFTAIN METALS INC

Regulated Party Contact(s):
Joanne Thompson, Sustainability Manager (205)651-7662

Mailing Address:
2200-1055 West Hastings St. Vancouver BC V6E 2E9

Phone No: (250)651-7662

Fax No:

Contact Email: Joanne.Thompson@cheiftainmetals.com

Location Description:
The Tulsequah Project is located in northwestern British Columbia on the Tulsequah River near its junction with the Taku River, approximately 100 kilometres south of the town of Atlin, British Columbia and 65 kilometres northeast of Juneau, Alaska.
Incident site - Tulsequah River.

Latitude: 58.73444 N

Longitude: 133.6016 W

Receiving Environment(s): Surfacewater

Summary

MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Inspection Period:
From: 2012-05-11 **To:** 2012-05-11

Requirement Source:
Permit

Activity: Office Review	Waste Type: Effluent

Inspection Summary:

Approximately 300 gallons of untreated mine water was released into the Tulsequah River from the Tulsequah Chief Interim Water Treatment Plant Acid Water Storage Pond at 5:27PM on 8 May 2012. This release lasted for three minutes and was monitored for the duration by the Tulsequah Chief Site Manager. The affected environment was "surface water". The cause of the spill was - complications due to equipment failure.

The release occurred as a result of a number of factors. These were:
Several failures in the IWTP lime dosage system (solenoids, ports, valves, impeller) requiring maintenance downtime to repair;
Problems with hydrated lime product consistency;
The polymer system remaining offline after the plant was re-started following maintenance activities; and
Spring freshet flows augmented by rainfall at site increasing the volume of pond inflows.

The incident was reported by the permittee May 9th 2012, via e-mail to Jeanien Carmody-Fallows, MOE EPO with an attached incident bulletin.

Response:
Advisory

Compliance Summary	In	Out	N/A	N/D
Reporting	2	0	0	1

Inspection Details

Requirement Type: Reporting

Requirement Description:
Discharge Permit 105719 Section 2.1. Bypass

Findings:
This incident represents non-compliance with discharge permit 105719, Section 2.1 Bypasses; under the provisions of the Environmental Management Act.

Compliance: In

Requirement Type: Reporting

Requirement Description:

Discharge Permit 105719 Section 5.6. Spill Reporting

Findings:

As per Section 5.6, Spill Reporting, of discharge permit 105719, the permittee is required to report spills to the Provincial Emergency Program. (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/eemp/).

The permittee was reminded of this requirement is an e-mail response in the advisory letter issued.

Compliance: Not Determined

Requirement Type: Reporting

Requirement Description:

Discharge Permit 105719 Section 5.2 Non-Compliance Reporting & Section 5.3 Non-Compliance Follow-Up

Findings:

The attached incident bulletin provides a detailed event timeline of the plant failures, maintenance and restarts leading up to the decision to pump water, overflowing the pump house to the river, followed by monitoring and cessation of the bypass. It also provides planned activities to prevent any discharge to the Tulseqhah River in the future.

Compliance: In

ACTIONS REQUIRED BY REGULATED PARTY & ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

MOE concurs that the following activities should carried out to prevent any discharge to the Tulseqhah River in the future:

Maintaining the IWTP Acid Water Storage Pond at the lowest possible level;
Installing a pipeline from the IWTP Acid Water Storage Pond to the Exfiltration Pond as a secondary storage option in the event of a pond overflow.
Increasing water storage capacity within the 5200 level of the Tulsequah Chief Mine.
Implementing an IWTP Start-Up checklist, which includes checking of all valves and pumps in the water treatment system to ensure full plant start-up.
Investigating automation options for IWTP start-up which will prevent the plant from starting unless all pumps are online.

An advisory letter was sent to the permittee acknowledging the non compliance. With no further reporting on the incident required by MOE.

INSPECTION CONDUCTED BY:

Signature	*Date Signed :*
Lisa Torunski	2012-05-16

ENCLOSURE(S) TO REGULATED PARTY & DESCRIPTION:

120509 Tulsequah Chief IWTP Pond Release Incident Bulletin.pdf

file://P:\WANSHARE\EPD\EPD_SHARED\!Compliance\!CVIS

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS:

Ministry of Environment	Skeena Region Environmental Protection Division	Mailing Address: Bag 5000, 3726 Alfred St Smithers, BC V0J 2N0	Phone: (250) 847-7260 Fax: (250) 847-7591 Website: http://www.gov.bc.ca/env