

AGENDA: BC/AK Bilateral Working Group

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 9:30 AM–11 AM AKST, 10:30 AM -12 PM PST

Meeting location: Virtual–teleconference via Teams

Attendees:

British Columbia:

- Nathaniel Amann-Blake, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM)
- Kevin Jardine, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV)
- Alex MacLennan, Associate Deputy Minister & Chief Executive Assessment Officer, Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)
- George Warnock, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement Division, MCM
- Alyson Blackstock, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Division, ENV
- Tracy James, Executive Project Director, Metal Mining, EAO
- Lowell Constable, Chief Permitting Officer, MCM
- Kyle Hyrniw, Director, Abandoned Mines, MCM
- Brennan Hutchison, Director, Priorities Advancement, MCM
- Michel Ryan-Aylward, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, ENV

Alaska:

- Randy Bates, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
- John Crowther, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Brent Goodrum, Deputy Commissioner, DNR
- Brock Tabor, Special Projects Coordinator, DEC
- Jessalynn Rintala, Environmental Program Specialist IV, DEC
- Kate Kanouse, Habitat Regional Supervisor, DFG
- Stephen Buckley, Mining Section Chief, DNR

Teck Resources (Teck):

- Deborah Read, Site Manager
- Stephanie Tan, Manager, Government and Regulatory Affairs
- Stephanie Tissot, Manager, Social Performance and Lands (Legacy Properties)

Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN):

- Rodger Thorlakson, Land & Resources Manager
- Jackie Caldwell, Consultant, Environmental Advisor
- Chris Sergeant, Consultant
- Gideon Kyei Serbeh, Mining Coordinator

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Deputy Minister Nathaniel Amann-Blake opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Agenda was adopted with no edits or amendments.

Tulsequah Remediation Efforts

- TRTFN and Teck Resources provided an update on remediation efforts to date, including a summary of work done in the 2024-25 field season and outlined the current planning being undertaken ahead of the 2026 field season.
- Teck's main focus is to implement a sustainable long-term solution at the Tulsequah mine site that addresses the contamination. Teck continues to look for ways to accelerate the work, which is contingent on safe access to the underground workings.
 - Active treatment was previously attempted by Chieftain Metals. Compliance with discharge criteria was inconsistent and such an approach is not considered to be sustainable long-term, as it requires continuous on-site presence and introduces operational and safety risks.
 - Passive treatment approaches previously attempted by Chieftain Metals within the underground also failed to consistently meet discharge criteria.
 - Teck is considering controlled flooding of the historic mining works. This is a standard approach that limits oxidation and acid rock drainage generation at source by submerging reactive materials and reducing oxygen exposure.
- The current planning for the 2026 field season focuses on continued work to ensure safe access and remediation planning. Continued geotechnical, geochemical and environmental information will be collected to inform effective remediation options for acid rock drainage at the Tulsequah Chief mine.
- Teck and TRTFN are developing a draft Remediation Plan outlining preferred acid rock drainage remediation options by the end of 2026.
- Teck and TRTFN's sole interest in the Tulsequah mine site is remediation; there is no intention by Teck or TRTFN for future mine development at the site.
- Teck and TRTFN will be hosting a public webinar on the Tulsequah remediation efforts on May 6th. A link to access this webinar was shared with Alaska representatives to distribute to their constituents and interested parties.
- Alaska representatives expressed their appreciation to Teck and TRTFN for holding public webinars and communicated a desire for regular public webinars as work at the site continues. Teck and TRTFN agreed to host Alaska Commissioners as well as House and Senate representatives for a site visit in summer 2026. The parties will work through logistics in the coming months.
- Teck outlined plans to launch a new webpage focused on Tulsequah, which will provide a centralized overview of the site history, environmental considerations, regulatory context, and current management activities. The webpage will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

Bonding Frameworks

- B.C. and Alaska each presented overviews of their respective bonding frameworks.

- In 2022, B.C. released its Reclamation Security Policy. This policy was developed in response to recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General of B.C. following a 2016 audit.
- It was agreed by both B.C. and Alaska representatives that the bonding approaches taken by each jurisdiction are functionally equivalent, with similarities and nuances.
- Each jurisdiction provides assurances of progressive reclamation, requires 5-year audits and updates on the estimated liability, and features the same discount rates, including using 100-year projection for discount rates.
- B.C. and Alaska will continue to stay engaged and share information with respect to each jurisdiction's bonding requirements.

Alaska Updates

- The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) received a grant for three years of study on four transboundary rivers: Unik, Salmon, Stikine and Taku.
- The scope of the DFG study is broad, encompassing periphyton (algae), benthic macroinvertebrates, Dolly Varden, juvenile coho.
- The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is currently undergoing the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, or Integrated Report, process. The draft report is [available on DEC's Webpage](#). A public comment period closed on April 6th; DEC is reviewing written comments and expects the Integrated Report to be finalized by December 2026.

B.C. Updates

- Alaska representatives asked how a critical mineral is defined. B.C. shared how [Canada is defining critical minerals](#). B.C. has adopted Canada's list of 34 minerals and metals.

Closing Remarks

- BWG members approved the 2026 newsletter and press release.

Appendix – Written Updates on BC Projects Since last BWG (provided for information, not discussed at the meeting)

New Polaris Gold Mine

- On March 31st, 2026, Canagold Resources Ltd submitted its Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). The project is now in the Application Review phase of the environmental assessment process during which a technical and public review of the Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate is undertaken.
- The EAO will hold a public comment period in May/June to collect public comments on the Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate.

Eskay Creek

- The project received its Environmental Assessment Certificate, Mines Act Permit and Environmental Management Act Permit in January 2026.
- Early construction activities have commenced, with more anticipated when the site is snow-free.

Red Chris

- The EAO is continuing its review of the proposed amendment to move from open-pit mining to underground block cave mining.
- On April 8th, 2026, the amendment was in the Effects Assessment phase, the final phase during which the EAO completes its review of the Amendment Application, drafts the report and recommendations, and prepares for referral to the Minister of Environment and Parks.
- The project's major permit applications were submitted in June 2025 and are undergoing technical review concurrent with the environmental assessment.