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Province of British Columbia
MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND
PETROLEUM RESOURCES
Mining & Mineral Division
Report of Inspector of Mines
(Issued pursuant to Section 15 of the *Mines Act*)

Inspection No.: 16760
File: 18040-02-02
Mine No.: 1101163
Permit No.:
Emp/Cont: 0 / 0
Orders H&S: 0 RECL: 0
Stop Work: 0

Inspection Report

NAME OF MINE	Mount Polley Mine	LOCALITY	52.573, -121.635, 93A12E Likely
OWNER/OPERATOR	Mount Polley Mining Corporation	ADDRESS	Po Box 12 Likely BC V0L 1N0
MANAGER	Tim Fisch	AREAS INSPECTED	Tailings facility, Wight Pit, Springer Pit, Bell Pit, Mine Rescue Station

Persons Contacted

MANAGEMENT	Tim Fisch, John Purdy, Travis Fontaine, Casey Cawston
OHS COMMITTEE	Roy Arnold
WORKERS	

A copy has been forwarded to the Joint Occupational and Safety Committee and the union as applicable. The Mine manager shall complete the right hand column noting specific corrective actions taken by a specified date, and return a copy to the Inspector within 15 days of receiving the report. Further the manager shall post a copy to the bulletin board, to be replaced by a copy showing the manager's response. In this document, Code means Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia.

INSPECTION ORDERS

On August 12, 2009 the Mount Polley mine site was visited by John Cox, Greg McLean, Caroline Nakatsuka and Cheryl Pocklington, Inspectors of Mines.

While inspecting the areas mentioned, John Cox, Inspector of Mines was accompanied by John Purdy, Mine Operations General Foreman and Roy Arnold, Occupational Health and Safety representative.

The tailings facility uses a cell construction method to handle the mill tailings. At the time a dozer was in the cell spreading the tails. A life line and buoy were readily available in case of an emergency.

The tailings facility is an engineered structure and is a critical component of mine operations. The mine is

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John Cox

Inspector of Mines

162 Oriole Road Kamloops BC V2C 4N7

Address

Date of Inspection: 8/12/2009

Copies To

Signature – Inspector of Mines

Signature – Manager

Dated: _____, 20____

INSPECTION ORDERS

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proposing to raise the dam and install a buttress at the south end of the dam. The manager shall forward the reports, prepared by a suitably qualified professional for these two projects to this office within two weeks.

The Wight pit is approaching the end of its reserves. Two separate blasts are being mucked out at the bottom of the pit near the west wall. The west wall has numerous faults and slips while the east wall has a major working slip. Pit wall monitors (prisms) have been installed and are monitored on a weekly basis. Extensometers have been installed on the west wall and are monitored hourly. At the time of the inspection no movement was observed. Also the cracks near the extensometer stations are also observed and recorded. In addition an observer is stationed in the pit to warn the crew of possible wall movement. These measure only work when you have good visibility. Consequently the mine does not work this pit on night shift.

Pursuant to Part 1.9.1 of the Code, the manager shall (1) take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure that the workplace is free of potentially hazardous agents and conditions which could adversely affect the health, safety, or well-being of the workers,

(2) where practicable, institute controls at the source to ensure that workers are not exposed to a level of any physical, chemical, or radiation hazard in excess of the limits prescribed in the code or by an inspector, with the exception of unusual short term or emergency situations.,

The practice of not working the Wight pit on night shift shall continue. As well, Mount Polley Standard Procedure MO 25 (Pit Wall Stability Assessment) and MO 26 (Pit wall Stability Monitoring) shall be followed and adhered to.

At the time of the inspection the Springer pit walls had been scaled except for the west bench where a Cubex drill was drilling. A Dangerous Occurrence was recorded at the mine where a light truck was used to push the tire over the edge of the bench. Are you people serious? Give your heads a shake. The truck could have gone over resulting in a fatality. Stop and think about what you are doing. If during the course of the shift you are asked or told to do something either by one of your co-workers or a supervisor that you have not been trained for, do not feel safe doing or do not have the right equipment or procedure, do not do it. You have the right to refuse pursuant to Part 1.10.1 which states “ a person shall not

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(Inspector)

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(Manager)

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<p>carry out any work or operate any equipment, tool, or appliance if he has reasonable cause to believe that to do so would create an undue hazard to the health or safety of any person”.</p> <p>The manager shall ensure that Part 1.9.1 of the Code and the Mount Polley MO 16 (Wall Scaling and Catch Berm Clean up Procedure) shall be followed and adhered to at all times.</p> <p>At the time of the inspection trucks were dumping waste in the Bell pit. There is water at the toe of the dump and there was no spotter or cat at the dump. Where to start? Part 1.9.1 of the Code was not followed.</p> <p>Pursuant to Part 6.10.1 (6) of the Code, the manager shall appoint qualified persons to act as dump persons – not done</p> <p>Pursuant to Part 6.20.5 of the Code, a dump person who is responsible for directing vehicles at a dump point shall</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) continually inspect the condition of the dump site and if abnormal or hazardous conditions are observed take corrective action to alleviate any danger to workers assigned to the dump, and (2) communicate immediately any abnormal or hazardous conditions found to the open pit shiftboss. <p>- not done</p> <p>Mount Polley MO 8 (Rock Disposal Site and Overburden Spoil Dumping and Monitoring Procedure) – not followed</p> <p>The manager shall ensure that the applicable Code requirements and his own standard procedures shall be followed starting immediately. What is the point of going to all the effort of making up a procedure to protect the employees as they go about their work if it is not followed? It turns it into a joke. Fatalities, injuries, accidents, near misses. Are these joking matters? No they are not. Period.</p> <p>Fire fighting equipment. Pursuant to Part 3.9.1 of the Code,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The manager shall ensure that fire fighting equipment is provided and maintained at all locations at the mine where fire may endanger life. (2) Unless specified otherwise in this code, The British Columbia Fire Code 1998 and subsequent supplements and revisions shall apply in determining the level of fire fighting equipment and maintenance 	

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as prescribe in subsection (1).
 The manager shall forward to this office within 10 days how Mount Polley Corporation is adhering to Part 3.9.1 of the Code. This is to include but not limited to all mobile equipment, surface plants, office areas and installations.

Pursuant to Part 3.8.3 of the Code, the manager of a mine shall appoint a qualified person to instruct and establish a training program for all employees in basic emergency response, and fire fighting.
 A copy of the training regime and the record of this training shall be sent to this office immediately.

Pursuant to Part 3.7.1 of the Code, the manager shall develop and file with the chief inspector, a mine rescue emergency response plan which shall be kept up to date and followed in the event of a emergency. The mine Emergency Response Plan shall contain all of the elements required in the "Mine Emergency Response Plan Guidelines for the Mining Industry," that may be amended from time to time.
 The manager shall forward, to this office, a copy of the Emergency Response Plan immediately.

Mine rescue is a time honoured, respected and absolutely critical component of any mines' operation. When a team or teams are required to go into harms way to rescue someone they have to be assured that their equipment is in top working order and suitable to the task at hand. Observations of the facilities and equipment conducted at the time of the inspection raise serious questions about this assurance.
 The mine rescue station shares the space of the ambulance garage. It is a dusty, grubby, poorly lit and unacceptable. Basically a pig pen. There is no way this area can be kept clean. The donning bench where the teams take apart and test their equipment is covered in dust and dirt, the tank filling station is in the same condition. If, while connecting or filling the bottles, dust is introduced into the bottle because of dirt in the threads this dust will go to the regulator. Now if a team member is under air and this dust jams the regulator he or she is down, a casualty, the team no longer has a full crew and what they set out to do does not get done.
 The manager shall provide a mine rescue station and training area where the qualified person of Part 3.7.12 of the Code can maintain all the mine rescue equipment in a spotless condition. Given the dust around the site this station and training area shall have suitable positive

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ventilation and filters. To be remedied immediately.

The front tires of the mine rescue truck are almost bald. Pursuant to Part 4.9.8 of the Code, every personnel carrier shall be inspected each day by an authorized person before being used to transport persons, and if any defects are found which could affect the safe operation of the vehicle they shall be corrected before it is used. The tires shall be replaced immediately.

The rear of the rescue truck is a mess and it is dusty. There is no labelling on the lockers describing their contents, the lockers were not fully supplied either here or the outside ones, the stretchers and their contents were not secured or covered, the gear in the open locker above the cab was not secured. The manager shall ensure that this rescue truck is suitably fitted for the task.

The turn out suits shall be checked for fit and function. The helmet masks are covered in dust. This equipment is also part of the mine rescue equipment and shall be maintained and stored in a clean environment.

There were several caches of carabiners and pulleys. The manager shall have them subjected to a non destructive test by a suitably qualified professional to ensure that they can be used. A record of this test shall be kept. Additional carabiners, pulleys and hardware shall be made available to equip the mine rescue team To be remedied immediately.

The ropes that were in the truck, the garage and the locker have all been used except for one 15mm white and blue rope in a box in the locker. The ropes were not identified either by heat shrink tabs on the ends or if they were in a bag, the bag was not marked. The log books were not in the bags either. There were no new, unused ropes ready for use by the mine rescue team. Old, used ropes are not to be employed in a real emergency. They are used for practice only

The manager shall provide new ropes of suitable size and length to equip the mine rescue team

The Occupational Health and Safety Committee is not operating effectively. The training is not current. Pursuant to Part 1.6.8 of the Code, where 20 or more workers are regularly employed, the manager shall arrange for a qualified person to provide the committee with training sessions on three occasions during the year.

The manager shall provide the name of the qualified person, his or her qualifications, the course for the

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<p>training, the dates and names of any committee members who have had training. To be provided within 5 days.</p> <p>The minutes of the OHSC lack clarity and commitment. The minutes shall identify who attends the meetings, their position within the OH&SC and the company, each item shall have its own paragraph and each item will be separated by a double space, each item shall have a responsible or assigned person and each item shall have a completion date – no exceptions, pursuant to Part 1.6.7 of the Code, the manager and all persons working at the mine shall cooperate fully with the OHSC by (3) correcting the safety hazards noted in the OHSC minutes by the date agreed by the OHSC committee. To be remedied immediately.</p> <p>The minutes of the OHSC meetings are not posted neither are they signed. This lack of action indicates to an inspector that the manager does not take the OHSC seriously. Pursuant to Part 1.6.4 of the Code, the minutes of the meeting referenced in section 1.6.3(2) shall be signed by the OHSC co-chairpersons or their designates and a copy shall without delay (1) be filed with the manager, and (2) be forwarded to the local union(s), and (3) be displayed in a conspicuous location at the mine until replaced by the minutes of the next meeting, and (4) be made available to an inspector on request. To be remedied immediately.</p>	