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x 14745-40/HUCK/01

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

February 4, 2000

Mr. C.O. Brawner, P.Eng.
President
C.O. Brawner Engineering Ltd.
Capilano Business Park
102 - 980 West 1st Street
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3N4

Dear Chuck:

Enclosed with this letter are the following reports:

1. Mount Polley Mining Corporation, Mount Polley Mine, Report on Cycloned Sand Construction of Stage 3 and On-going Stages of the Tailings Storage Facility (Ref. No. 11162/12-2), Volume I of II and Volume II of II, Knight Piésold Ltd., December 13, 1999.

2. Instrumentation and Laboratory Testing Programs, Kemess Tailings Dam, AGRA Earth & Environmental Limited, December 23, 1999.

3. Huckleberry TMF-2 Tailings Dam, Deformation Modeling, AGRA Earth & Environmental Limited, December 16, 1999.

I would like you to review these reports, in the above order, and provide your written comments and recommendations regarding the findings of these reports and the information upon which the consultants have based their findings.

Also, consider the reports as necessary background information for:

1. Mt. Polley is anxious to move to cyclone sand construction for their TSF dam. We are concerned that they may not have completed realistic cost estimates and recognized all the construction difficulties. In addition:

   i) the till core has shifted upstream a bit and might be narrow above the existing dam crest;
   ii) the need and effectiveness of the upstream drainage pipe has not been clearly demonstrated; and
   iii) the cycloned sand has a high silt content (about 40 percent) and, therefore, lower permeability.

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Ministry of Energy and Mines

Mines Branch
Energy and Minerals Division

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2. Kemess has recently completed a test pad over an instrumented section of the glaciolacustrine unit. They now have pore pressure data which can be used for optimizing TSF Stage IV design. The Ministry expects to receive the Stage IV design in the near future and may require further input from you and/or the Geotechnical Review Panel.

3. Huckleberry is interested in placing more reliance on survey monitors on the toe berms and less on inclinometers, to assess the deformations and performance of TMF-2 dams, particularly during crest raising of the till core. It would be attractive to them to eliminate inclinometers entirely, if possible.

A separate letter report should be written for each mine. Please call me, or George Headley in the case of Mt. Polley, if you want to discuss these matters further before completing your written reports. As the enclosed reports are our only copies in Victoria, please return them as soon as possible by courier. You may photocopy any parts for your Ministry work. Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Eaton

Tim Eaton, P.Eng.
Manager, Geotechnical Engineering

TE:sf

Enclosures

cc: George Headley
Senior Geotechnical Engineer
Mines Branch