



June 07, 2024

To British Columbia's Mine Managers:

You are likely aware that British Columbia (BC) is again facing the potential for drought-related impacts this summer owing to low snow accumulations, hot and dry weather, and reduced rainfall over the past year. Some basins are already extremely dry, with drought levels for the Northeast basins currently at level 5. According to the Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship, level 5 drought means that adverse impacts on socioeconomic or ecosystem values are almost certain, and conservation actions, including local water restrictions, regulatory action, and emergency response measures, may be needed.

With this in mind, it is important for mine managers to evaluate their operation's water usage and dependence. Your role as a mine manager is crucial in proactively assessing the risk of limited water supply and identifying anticipated issues that may be encountered during periods of drought. By proactively identifying impacts, mines may be able to develop mitigation strategies to operate safely during drought conditions.

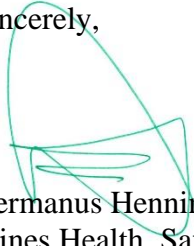
Accordingly, you are asked to consider how your mining operation accesses water and how your mine may be impacted if the water supply becomes limited or restricted. Limited or no water availability can have a range of impacts on mines, which may include but are not limited to the following:

- Potable water supply
- Safety controls, such as eyewash stations, deluge showers, etc.
- Dust control measures for tailings storage, roads, silica control, etc.
- Fire suppression systems
- Production/processing
- Permit compliance, including TSF water coverage requirements, discharge and dilution rates, etc.
- Reduced site power from low hydroelectrical power generation

You will need to consider these potential impacts to ensure that your mine is able to implement mitigations to operate safely during periods of drought. If you experience drought-related challenges, such as maintaining compliance with code or permit requirements, you are advised to contact your local mines inspector. Additionally, you may need to work with your water licensing agency, either provincial or municipal, to ensure that you maintain an awareness of any potential water use restrictions, enabling you to plan accordingly.

Climate change is leading us to reconsider how we interact with our natural environment. Proactively assessing how climate-related hazards could potentially impact your operation will help it to remain resilient, safe, and compliant with applicable regulations, permitting, and licensing requirements in this evolving operating environment.

Sincerely,



Hermanus Henning, Chief Inspector of Mines
Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement Division
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

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