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Ministry of Environment Mining Operations Environmental Protection 2080 Labieux Road Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9

WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT - OCTOBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 3, 2016

Water Management

Springer Pit

Water elevations are recorded daily at the Springer Pit. Surrounding groundwater elevations are recorded daily with a few exceptions. The summarized weekly data are presented here in Table 1.

Water quality monitoring is conducted at the Springer Pit (sample point E11a) weekly and the surrounding groundwater wells monthly. The groundwater wells were purged and sampled last week. All results are reported to the Ministry of Environment (MoE) each quarter, and results are included here as they become available. Results for the Springer Pit from the last six sampling events are shown in Table 2.

Water Treatment and Discharge

Discharge of treated water continued this week; the total amount of treated water discharged between October 24th and October 31st was 202,683 m³ with an average discharging rate of 0.294 m³/s throughout this same period.

Rehabilitation Work

Hazeltine Creek Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation work at upper Hazeltine Creek has been completed for 2016. Rehabilitation and erosion control work is continuing in reach 2 and 3.

Environmental Monitoring Program

Water Quality Monitoring

Samples were collected at end of pipe at the water treatment plant (station HAD-03) and throughout Hazeltine Creek on November 1st. Results for HAD-03 from the October 24th sampling event are shown in Table 3.

QUL-58 was profiled on October 26th, and the most recent profile data for QUL-58 is provided in Figure 1. Results from QUL-58 sampling events compared to the BC Water Quality Guidelines (WQG) for aquatic life are reported here when they become available.

For previous results see the October 27, 2016 report available on the Imperial Metals website: https://www.imperialmetals.com/assets/docs/mt-polley/10-27-16-weekly_update_SEC.pdf

A map of monitoring stations is available on the Imperial Metals website: http://www.imperialmetals.com/assets/docs/mt-polley/12.03.15.weekly-update.pdf

The update for the Post-Event Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available on the Imperial Metals website:

https://www.imperialmetals.com/assets/docs/mt-polley/2016-06-03_1411734-124-R-Rev0-10000.pdf

Figure 1 shows field parameter profile results for turbidity and temperature at station QUL-58 in Quesnel Lake (station 100m from the Hazeltine Creek outflow diffusers, at the edge of the initial dilution zone).

Figure 2 shows field turbidity readings for upper, middle and lower Hazeltine Creek. Increases in turbidity along the creek between June and early October 2016 were generally a result of the construction in the upper reaches of the creek and quickly dropped out in the sedimentation pond at lower Hazeltine.

Figure 3 shows a time series graph of turbidity readings at site QUR-1/QUR-11 in the upper Quesnel River.

Table 1. Water elevations for Springer Pit and groundwater wells

	Last Week	This Week	Change
	26-Oct-16	2-Nov-16	(m)
Springer	1022.30	1020.90	-1.40
GW12-2a	1016.53	1016.47	-0.05
GW12-2b	1017.34	1017.22	-0.13
GW15-1a	1026.35	1025.49	-0.86
GW15-1b	1026.41	1025.53	-0.88
GW15-2a	1025.57	1025.30	-0.27
GW15-2b	1026.96	1026.56	-0.40

Table 2. Springer Pit supernatant water chemistry results

		Springer Pit Supernatant					
Date Sampled		19-Sep-16	27-Sep-16	03-Oct-16	11-Oct-16	18-Oct-16	24-Oct-16
Physical Tests							
Conductivity	μS/cm	1170	1150	1200	1150	1120	1150
Hardness (as CaCO3)	mg/L	500	509	505	505	498	495
рН	рН	7.77	7.86	7.77	7.85	7.74	7.81
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	<1.0	1.10	<1.0	<1.0	1.10	1.60
Turbidity	NTU	0.50	0.39	0.41	0.43	0.86	0.92
Anions and Nutrients							
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	9.28	8.97	8.85	9.10	8.73	8.65
Sulfate (SO4)	mg/L	572	549	547	567	545	537
Total Metals							
Aluminum (AI)-Total	mg/L	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.09
Arsenic (As)-Total	mg/L	0.00098	0.00098	0.00098	0.00111	0.00106	0.00104
Cadmium (Cd)-Total	mg/L	<0.00015	<0.000020	0.0000188	<0.000020	<0.000030	0.0000144
Copper (Cu)-Total	mg/L	0.00389	0.00384	0.00344	0.00375	0.00515	0.00617
Iron (Fe)-Total	mg/L	<0.030	<0.030	<0.030	<0.030	0.039	0.046
Lead (Pb)-Total	mg/L	<0.000050	<0.000050	<0.000050	<0.000050	<0.000050	<0.000050
Molybdenum (Mo)-Total	mg/L	0.188	0.180	0.182	0.180	0.176	0.177
Selenium (Se)-Total	mg/L	0.037	0.0362	0.0362	0.0345	0.0361	0.0357
Dissolved Metals							
Aluminum (Al)-Dissolved	mg/L	0.0241	0.0220	0.0226	0.0201	0.0192	0.0190
Arsenic (As)-Dissolved	mg/L	0.00091	0.00092	0.00095	0.00099	0.00098	0.00096
Cadmium (Cd)-Dissolved	mg/L	<0.00015	<0.000020	0.0000136	<0.000015	<0.000030	0.0000145
Copper (Cu)-Dissolved	mg/L	0.00245	0.00264	0.00236	0.00255	0.00288	0.00305
Iron (Fe)-Dissolved	mg/L	<0.03	<0.030	<0.030	<0.030	<0.030	<0.030
Lead (Pb)-Dissolved	mg/L	<0.000050	<0.000050	<0.000050	<0.000050	<0.000050	<0.000050
Molybdenum (Mo)-Dissolved	mg/L	0.182	0.174	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.167
Selenium (Se)-Dissolved	mg/L	0.0374	0.0337	0.0365	0.0356	0.0346	0.0344

Table 3. Sample analysis results for HAD-03 (end of pipe from the water treatment plant)

	Lab Analysis Results for HAD-03	Permit 11678	
	24-Oct-16	mg/L	
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	1.4	15	
Nitrate (as N)- Total (mg/L)	8.82	9.7	
Ammonia (as N) - Total (mg/L)	0.0311	0.41	
Phosphorus (P) - Total (mg/L)	0.0086	0.09	
Sulphate (mg/L)	548	720	
Arsenic (As) - Total (mg/L)	0.00111	0.0034	
Copper (Cu)-Total (mg/L)	0.00621	0.012	
Cadmium (Cd)-Total (mg/L)	<0.000020	N/A	
Chromium (Cr) - Total (mg/L)	<0.00050	0.0011	
Iron (Fe) - Total (mg/L)	0.061	0.11	
Molybdenum (Mo)-Total (mg/L)	0.174	0.2	
Selenium (Se)-Total (mg/L)	0.0345	0.06	
Vanadium (V) - Total (mg/L)	0.00119	0.0081	
Zinc (Zn) - Total (mg/L)	<0.0030	0.0083	

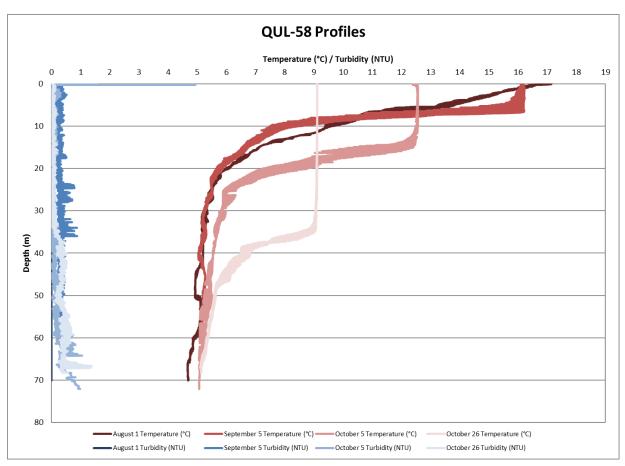


Figure 1. Turbidity and temperature profiles at QUL-58 on Aug 1, Sep 5, Oct 5, and Oct 26, 2016.

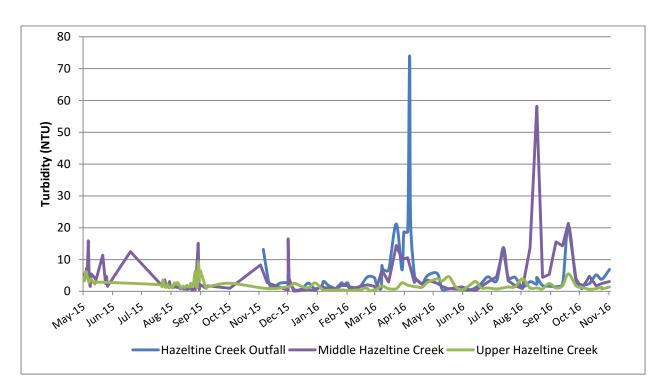


Figure 2. Time series graph for May 15, 2015 – November 1, 2016 showing turbidity levels at monitoring locations in upper and lower Hazeltine Creek

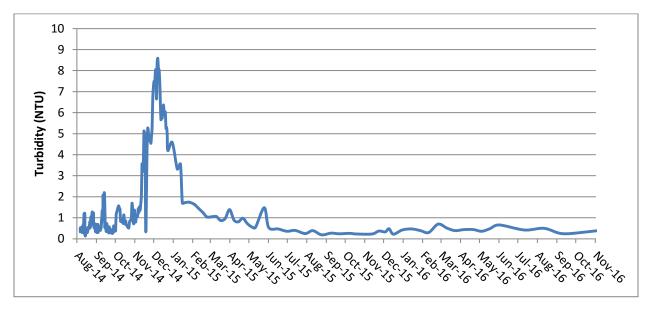


Figure 3. Time series of turbidity readings at site QUR-1/QUR-11 in the upper Quesnel River. Samples are collected monthly from this site.