



June 23, 2016

Ms. Fern Stockman  
Project Assessment Manager  
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Victoria, BC V8W 9H8

Dear Fern:

The Ministry of Energy and Mines has reviewed your March 11, 2016 letter entitled “Mount Polley Mining Corporation’s (MPMC) changes to the Mount Polley Mine and Environmental Assessment Certificate M96-07 (Certificate)”, submitted to Don Parsons, Chief Operating Officer, Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC) and MPMC’s subsequent responses.

The letter is clear that Section 2 of the Certificate requires that MPMC seek the consent of the Ministers for material alterations of the “Development” (as defined in the certificate). Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) raised several alterations that in EAO’s initial assessment may be considered material and therefore required Ministers approval. As you have pointed out in the closing sections of the letter, the Minister of Energy and Mines retains the power to determine what alterations are material pursuant to Section 2 of the Certificate.

Ministry of Energy and Mine has reviewed the alterations listed in the letter and MPMC’s responses found in their “Assessment of Alterations” document submitted in June 2016 and while some of the changes that have been made to the mine design may appear to be significant changes, MEM contends that at the time the changes that were made to the mine plan were not considered to be “material alterations” but were following a typical progression for mine development. Ministry of Energy and Mines can confirm that all of the changes requiring an amendment to the Mines Act permit were done through the MEM’s existing regulatory permitting process (including consultation) whereby an assessment of the potential effects and associated mitigation measures were addressed as required.

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**Ministry of Energy and Mines**  
**Chief Inspector of Mines**

Mines and Mineral Resources  
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Ministry of Energy and Mines has also reviewed MPMC November application for an amendment to M- 200 for a full restart authorization. Given it is a request for permitting activities which have already been reviewed and operationalized before the 2014 TSF breach it is MEM's assessment that it is not consider a material alteration and will not be seeking Minister approvals.

Ministry of Energy and Mines agrees and supports with the suggestion that the EAO move forward with working with MPMC application to modernize the existing certificate. This would ensure that on a go-forward basis the project is subject to the same EAO oversight of its Certificate as any other project.

Thank you for your attention to this file and its complexities, if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Diane Howe  
Deputy Chief Inspector of Mines, Reclamation and Permitting