

# **Mount Polley Mining Corporation**

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#### December 30, 2015

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

### WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT - DECEMBER 24 TO DECEMBER 29, 2015

#### Water Management

| Springer Pit       | The total volume of tailings deposited in the Springer Pit as of December 28th 1,702,838 tonnes (1,233,940m <sup>3</sup> including water retained in tailings).<br>Water Elevations (December 29)<br>Springer Pit = 1025.22m (+0.13m from last week)<br>Groundwater well GW12-2a = 1015.17m (+0.01m from last week)<br>Groundwater well GW12-2b = 1015.54m (+0.04m from last week)<br>Groundwater well GW15-1a = 1025.52m (+0.11m from last week)<br>Groundwater well GW15-1b = 1025.49m (+0.12m from last week)<br>Groundwater well GW15-2a = 1025.15m (+0.02m from last week)<br>Groundwater well GW15-2b = 1025.77m (-0.06m from last week)<br>Monthly water quality results for parameters of interest from the Springer<br>supernatant and adjacent groundwater wells will continue to be presented,<br>available. The last reported water quality was in the November 26 <sup>th</sup> report. N<br>results are expected next week. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Water<br>Discharge | Water discharge continued this week, with discharge rates of 0.23 m <sup>3</sup> /s generally achieved daily. (Flow may be disrupted when routine maintenance and cleaning is preformed).   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dobabilitation W/  | ork   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

#### **Rehabilitation Work**

| Hazeltine Creek | There were no activities in the creek this week due to weather and equipment |
|-----------------|--|
| Rehabilitation  | restrictions.  |

## **Environmental Monitoring Program**

| Water<br>Quality<br>Monitoring | All water quality monitoring as required by Permit 11678 is current. Quesnel Lake water discharge sampling included collection of in-situ profile data and sample at station QUL-<br>58 only, as weather conditions caused the sampling equipment to freeze. Samples were also collected at end of pipe at the water treatment plant (station HAD-03) and throughout Hazeltine Creek.<br>An updated map of monitoring stations is available on the Imperial Metals website.<br><u>http://www.imperialmetals.com/assets/docs/mt-polley/12.03.15.weekly-update.pdf</u> |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Results                        | Table 1 shows a selection of the laboratory analysis results for grab samples collected at the water treatment plant end of pipe (HAD-03) on December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> compared to the permit requirements. Though not all parameters are shown here, all were below the permit guidelines. Results for sample collected December 22 <sup>nd</sup> were not available prior to reporting.  |
|                                | Table 2 shows a selection of the laboratory analysis results for grab samples collected at the edge of the initial dilution zone in Quesnel Lake (QUL-58) on December 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , and 14 <sup>th</sup> . Though not all parameters are shown here, all were below the aquatic guidelines or at background levels. Results for sample collected December 22 <sup>nd</sup> were not available prior to reporting.  |
|                                | 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.   |
|                                | Figure 3 shows a time series graph of turbidity readings at site QUR-1 in the upper Quesnel River.   |

Table 1. Sample analysis results for HAD-03 (end of pipe from the water treatment plant).

|                                  | Lab Ar    | Permit 11678 |            |       |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-------|
|                                  | 12/3/2015 | 12/7/2015    | 12/15/2015 |       |
|                                  | 11:33     | 10:18        | 13:33      | mg/L  |
| Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)    | 13.9      | 8.2          | 7.6        | 15    |
| Nitrate (as N) (mg/L)            | 7.13      | 7.33         | 7.78       | 9.7   |
| Copper (Cu)-Total (mg/L) (mg/L)  | 0.00461   | 0.00412      | 0.00403    | 0.012 |
| Molybdenum (Mo)-Total (mg/L)     | 0.155     | 0.147        | 0.141      | 0.41  |
| Selenium (Se)-Total (mg/L)       | 0.0274    | 0.029        | 0.0302     | 0.06  |
| Sulphate (mg/L)                  | 535       | 526          | 525        | 720   |
| Cadmium (Cd)-Total (mg/L) (mg/L) | 0.0000694 | <0.000050    | 0.0000177  | N/A   |



Figure 1. Turbidity and temperature profiles at QUL-58 on November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

|                                     | QUL-58-S           | QUL-58-Mid         | QUL-58-B           | QUL-58-S           | QUL-58-Mid         | QUL-58-B           | QUL-58-S            | QUL-58-Mid          | QUL-58-B            |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                     | 12/2/2015<br>11:35 | 12/2/2015<br>12:09 | 12/2/2015<br>12:25 | 12/9/2015<br>10:18 | 12/9/2015<br>12:42 | 12/9/2015<br>12:53 | 12/14/2015<br>11:19 | 12/14/2015<br>11:30 | 12/14/2015<br>11:41 |
| Total Suspended Solids<br>(mg/L)    | <3.0               | <3.0               | <3.0               | <3.0               | <3.0               | <3.0               | <3.0                | <3.0                | <3.0                |
| Nitrate (as N) (mg/L)               | 0.105              | 0.106              | 0.105              | 0.110              | 0.110              | 0.112              | 0.116               | 0.115               | 0.114               |
| Copper (Cu)-Total (mg/L)<br>(mg/L)  | 0.00163            | 0.00149            | 0.00136            | 0.00143            | 0.00150            | 0.00281            | 0.00130             | 0.00138             | 0.00157             |
| Molybdenum (Mo)-Total<br>(mg/L)     | 0.000452           | 0.000414           | 0.000404           | <0.00050           | <0.00050           | <0.00050           | 0.000466            | 0.000426            | 0.000443            |
| Selenium (Se)-Total (mg/L)          | 0.000113           | 0.000096           | 0.000089           | 0.000099           | 0.000089           | 0.000103           | 0.000110            | 0.000108            | 0.000110            |
| Sulphate (mg/L)                     | 6.66               | 6.60               | 6.60               | 6.67               | 6.70               | 6.84               | 6.68                | 6.63                | 6.58                |
| Cadmium (Cd)-Total (mg/L)<br>(mg/L) | <0.0000050         | <0.0000050         | <0.0000050         | <0.0000050         | <0.0000050         | <0.0000050         | <0.0000050          | <0.0000050          | <0.0000050          |

Table 2. Sample analysis results from the Quesnel Lake initial dilution zone (QUL-58)



Figure 2. Time series graph for May 15, 2015 – December 29, 2015 showing turbidity levels at monitoring locations in upper and lower Hazeltine Creek (note: discharge commenced on December 1<sup>st</sup> causing a short-lived increase in turbidity in the middle reaches of Hazeltine Creek)



Figure 3. Turbidity time series at station QUR-1 (December 1, 2014 – December 16, 2015)