

# **Mount Polley Mining Corporation**

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## **December 31, 2014**

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

## WEEKLY POST-TSF BREACH REPORT - WEEK OF DECEMBER 23 - 30, 2014

# **Water Management and TSF Works**

Polley Lake Dewatering	Polley Lake water elevation = 921.77 m (December 30 <sup>th</sup> ) Water levels are currently within the typical range. Polley Lake is now frozen and all pumping infrastructure was removed in late November.
Breaches	No breaches of the water management system containing water flow from the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) occurred this week.
TSF and Water Management Structures	<ul> <li>The amendment to permit M-200 approving repair of the TSF breach to manage 2015 freshet was received from the Ministry of Mines on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Ongoing work being completed under this approval includes: <ul> <li>Bulk excavation of the North and South Abutments (the embankments to the north and south of the breach) - Completed</li> <li>Foundation preparation for Perimeter Embankment buttressing is progressing and 45% completed.</li> <li>Foundation preparation for the Cut-Off wall is ongoing and the first priority until completion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Refer to Figure 1 for a map of the TSF area and associated works.</li> </ul>
	All water from TSF water collection systems is currently transferred to the Springer Pit via the Central Collection Sump. Water flow from the breach location is now transferred from the Breach Sump via pumps to Upstream #1 sump then to the settling pond and the Central Collection Sump. The red line on Figure 1 showing transport of water from the Till Borrow Pit to the TSF is contingency infrastructure that is being considered, but is not currently in place.

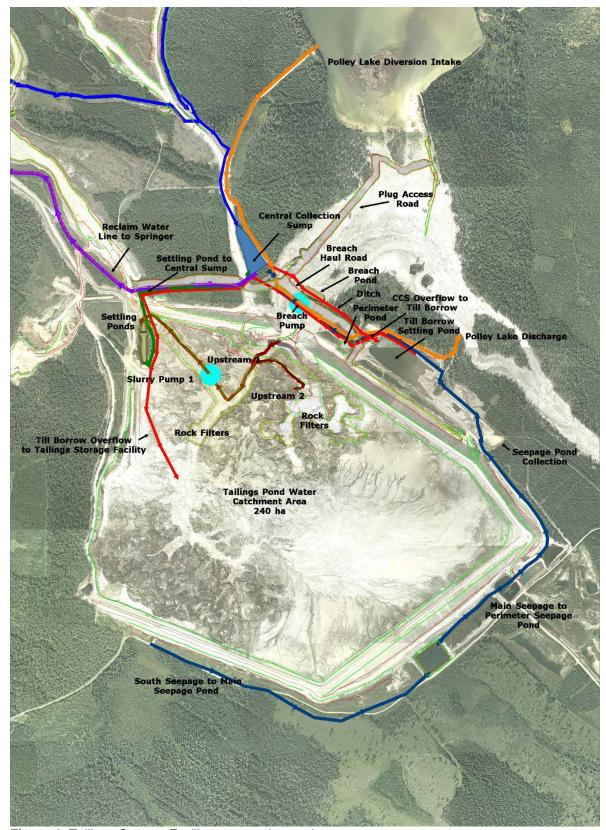


Figure 1. Tailings Storage Facility construction works

# **Sediment and Erosion Control Measures**

Silt Curtain	The new Hazeltine Creek outflow channel from the sedimentation ponds into Quesnel Lake bypasses the silt curtain which is attached to the log boom at the mouth of Hazeltine Creek. It is anticipated that the sedimentation ponds will now carry out the role of removing suspended solids from the water column. The curtain is in good condition and will remain in place for the time being.
Sediment Control Works	Current sediment and erosion control works underway at lower Hazeltine Creek (below the Ditch Road) include:
(Lower Hazeltine)	<ul> <li>Re-grading and landscaping of select areas (Sections 4 and 9 of the Plan).</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Installation and maintenance of sediment control measures including silt fences and straw bales (see Section 5 of the Plan).</li> </ul>
	Seepage from the lower sedimentation pond was addressed through the construction of a filter buttress along the south side of the pond.
	The temporary Edney Creek crossing has been replaced with the original design culverts (1200mm). The pumps for the pump around system have been shut off and are being serviced. All flow from Edney is running through the new stabilized channel and is being collected in the sedimentation ponds. The fish exclusion fence is intact and functioning effectively. The Edney Creek work will recommence after the holidays.
	Environmental construction monitoring is occurring continuously during all activities. All flows have been diverted into the sedimentation ponds and the turbidity reading on December 29 <sup>th</sup> was 6.26 ntu at the outlet of the lower pond.
Sediment Control Works	Design work for a weir structure at the outlet of Polley Lake is in the final stages.
(Middle and Upper Hazeltine)	The proposed Polley Lake outflow channel continues to be excavated along the south end of the Plug Access Road. Tailings are being sent to the TSF and organic material is being stockpiled.
	Plans for erosion control and restoration works are currently being discussed with Fisheries and Oceans and First Nations prior to implementation.

#### **Water Quality Monitoring Program**

The maps on pages 1-9 of Figure 5 (attached) show locations that have been sampled as part of the water quality monitoring program. The table below is a summary of the current water quality monitoring program. The monitoring program also includes a sonde (datalogger) that is deployed in the Quesnel River at the Quesnel River Research Centre (site QUR-1). The sonde measures field parameters (pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, and temperature) every 15 minutes.

Sampling on Quesnel Lake has been suspended due to winter conditions as of December 18<sup>th</sup>. This is consistent with previous plans communicated to the MOE. All scheduled monitoring of the Quesnel River and Hazeltine Creek was completed this week.

Planned changes to the monitoring program:

Sample results from QUR-1 have remained constant since mid-November. With
consideration of this the sampling frequency at site QUR-1 has been reduced from daily
to weekly starting the week of December 22<sup>nd</sup>, with supplemental sampling to be
completed as required based on daily turbidity readings.

Frequency	Area	Sample Locations
Weekly	Quesnel River	QUR-1
Weekly		
	Hazeltine Creek	HAC-01b, HAC-05

Figure 2 shows a time series graph of turbidity results from sample location QUR-1 on Quesnel River (at the Quesnel River Research Centre). All turbidity data is from laboratory analysis completed by ALS Environmental, except for data from December 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, which is from the continuous monitoring sonde. The data sonde stopped recording on December 26<sup>th</sup> at 17:27 and field staff are currently trouble shooting the issue. Daily ntu samples from December 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> were collected however the data has not been received from the sampler at this time.

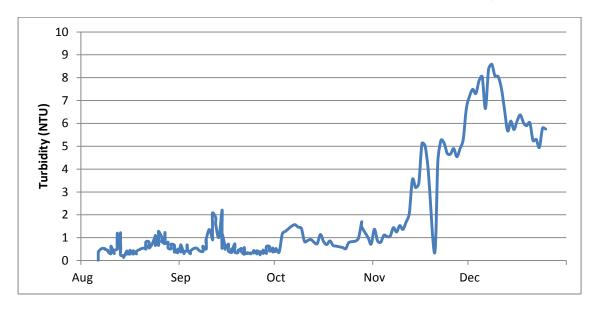


Figure 2. Turbidity time series at sample location QUR-1 (August 6<sup>th</sup> – December 22<sup>nd</sup>)

#### **Publication of Environmental Monitoring Results & Remediation Updates**

Mount Polley will continue to present interpreted environmental monitoring results and updates on remediation work on the <u>Mount Polley Updates</u> page of the Imperial Metals website (www.imperialmetals.com). Recent updates include:

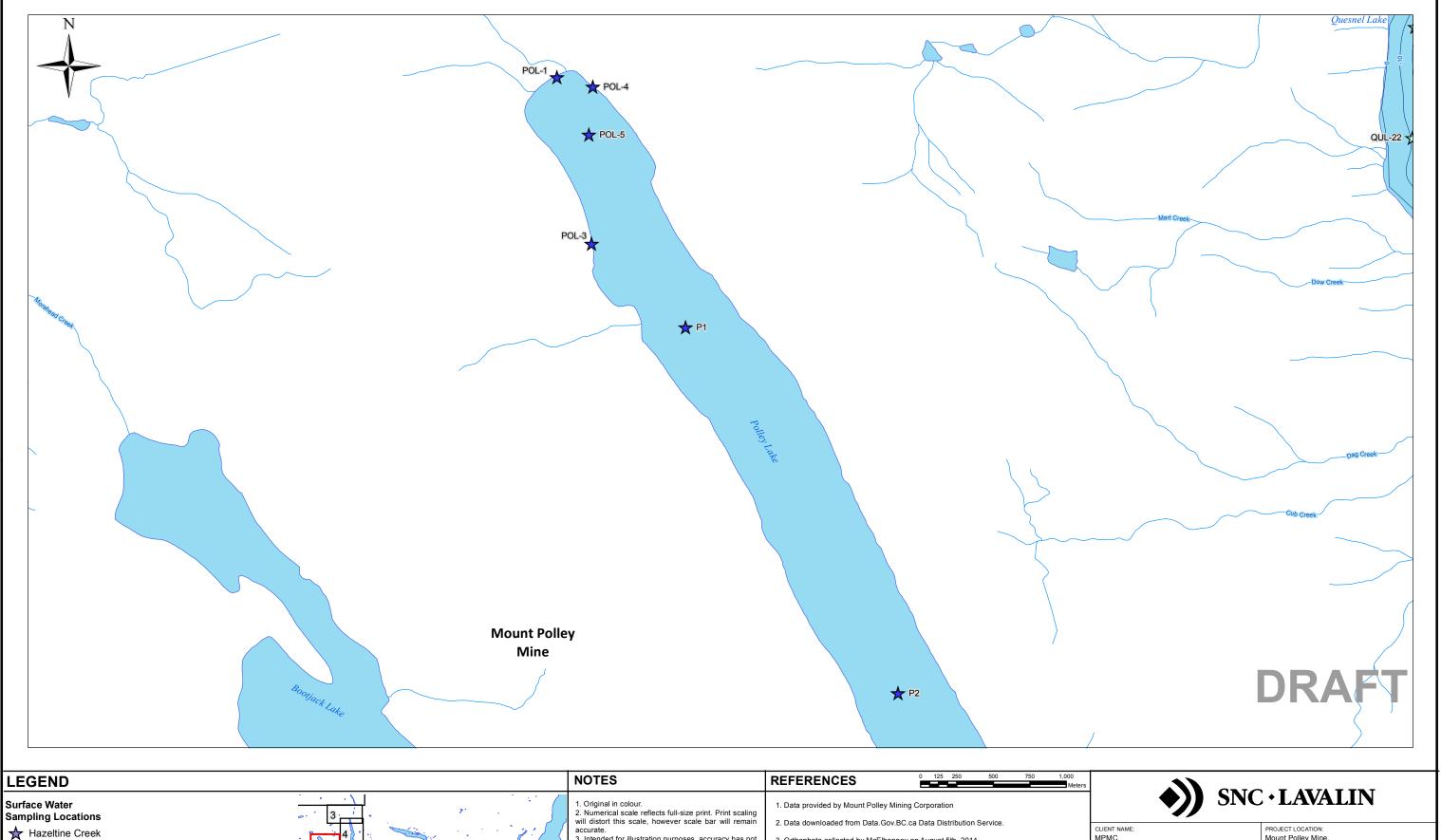
- A <u>Community Update Bulletin</u> providing information on recent water quality results and Hazeltine Creek restoration work (published December 17<sup>th</sup>)
- <u>Preliminary Results of the Geochemistry of Exposed Tailings Along Hazeltine Creek</u> (published December 17<sup>th</sup>)
- The news release <u>Mount Polley Mine Supports Quesnel Lake Research</u>, which provides information on a joint research project which involves the Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the research community (published December 12<sup>th</sup>)

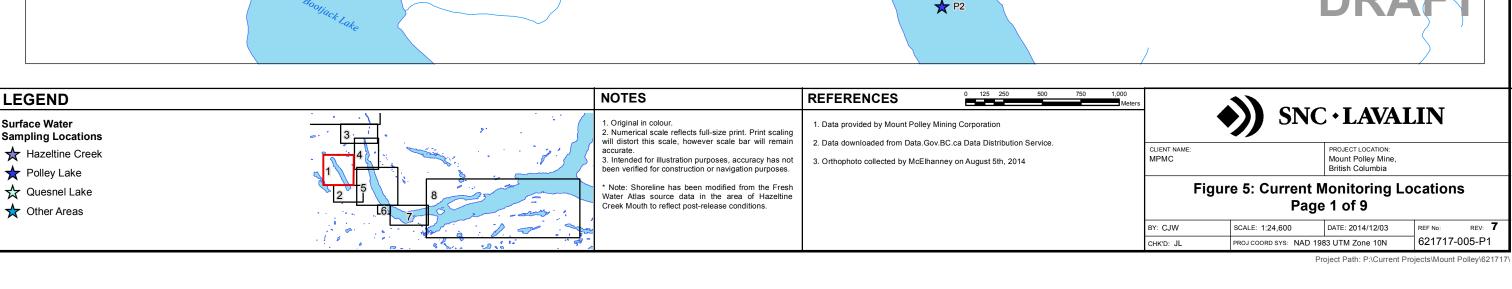
It is anticipated that a report on aquatic toxicity findings from the water toxicity testing program will be published in the upcoming weeks.

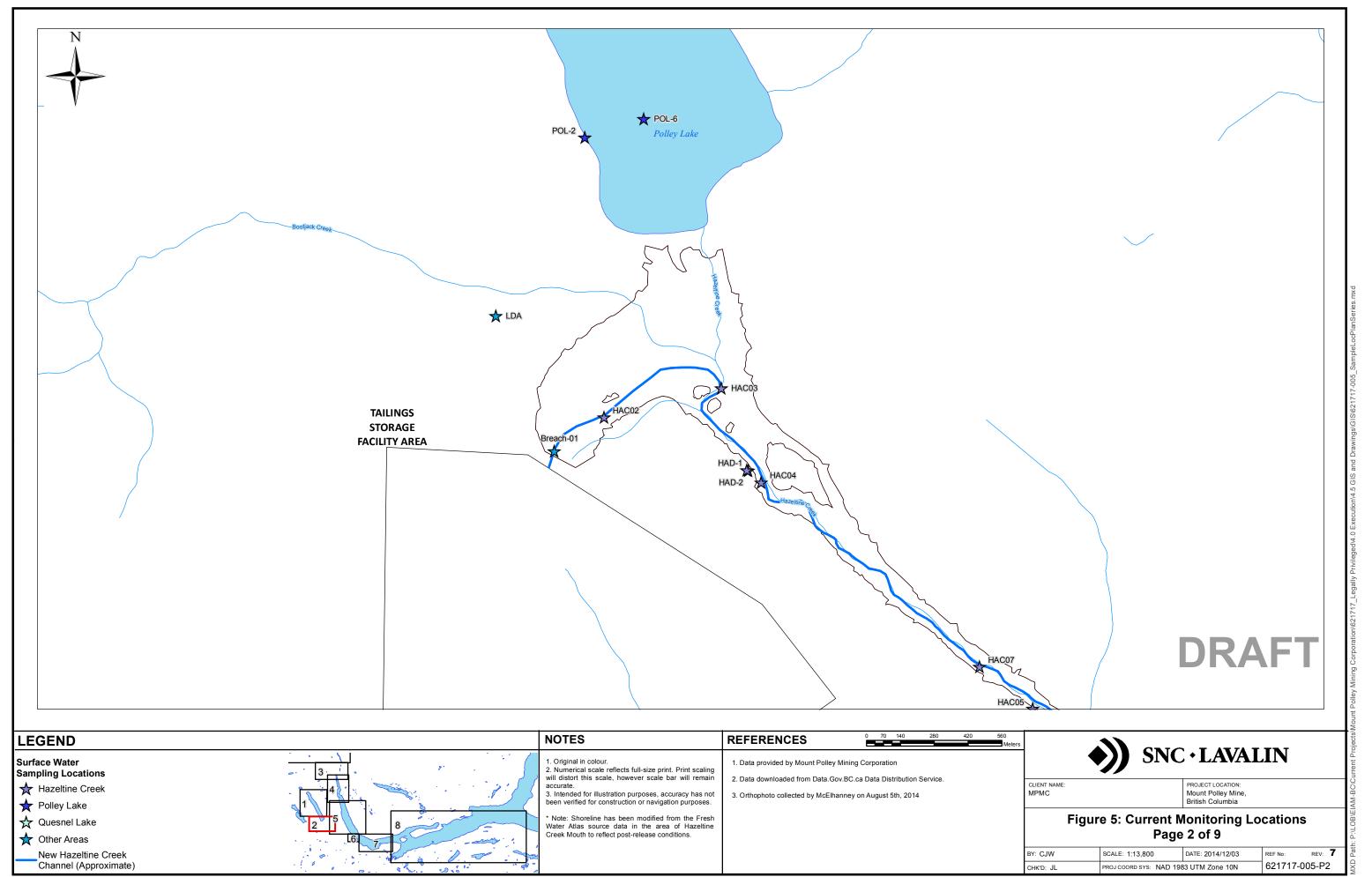
## **ATTACHMENTS**

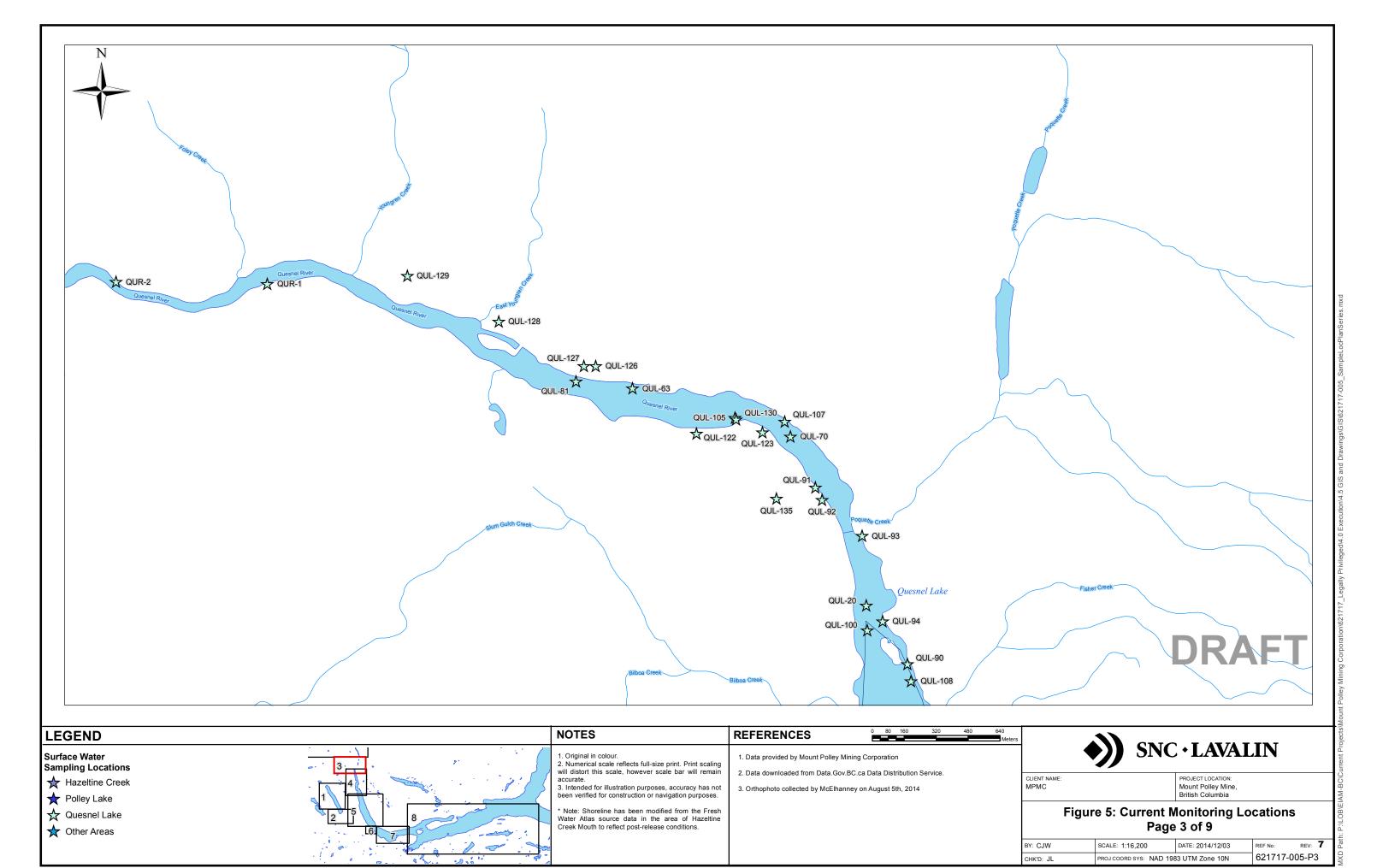
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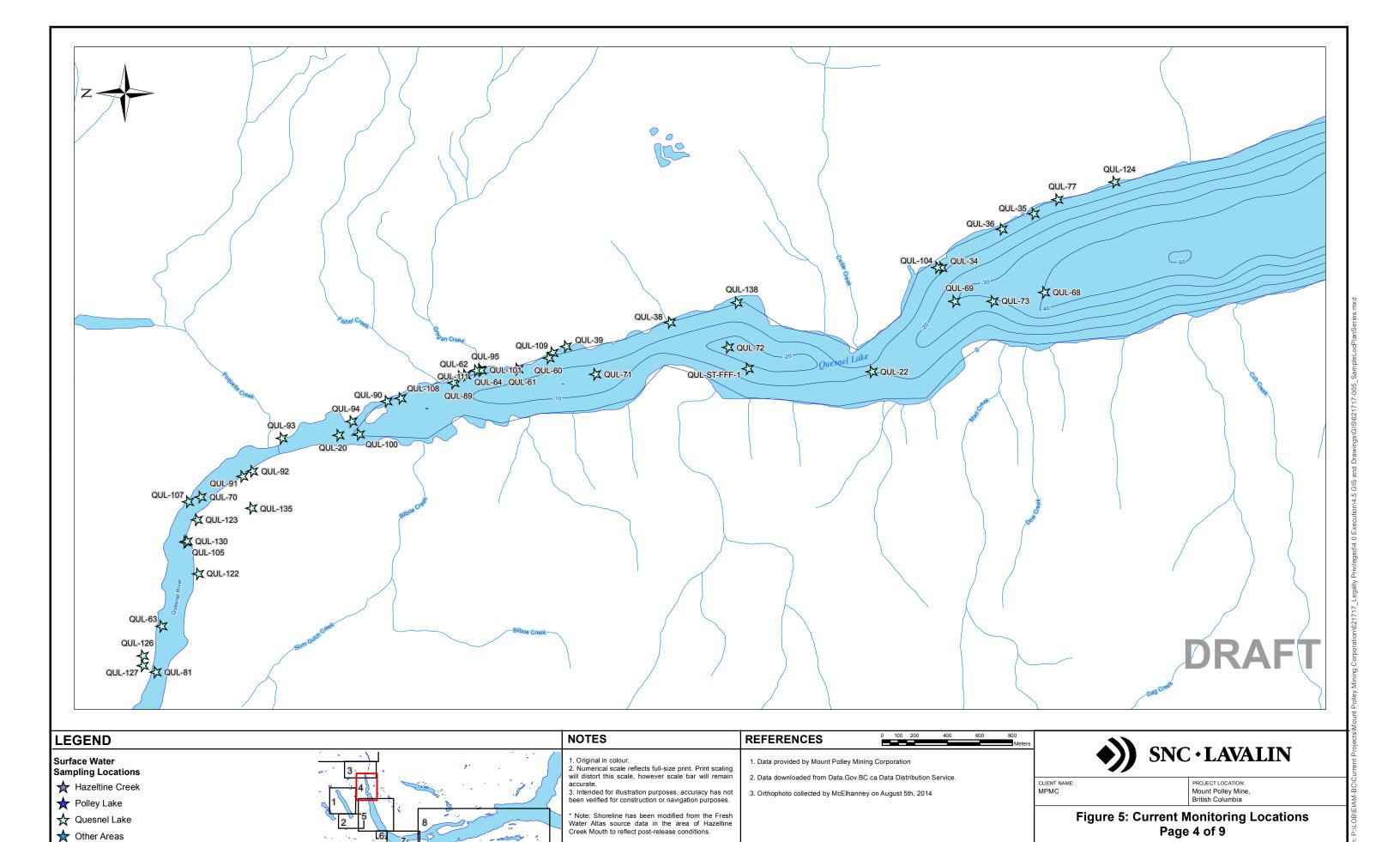
612717-005-P1 through 612717-005-P9: Current Monitoring Locations (Figure 5)











REV: 7

621717-005-P4

DATE: 2014/12/03

PROJ COORD SYS: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

BY: CJW

CHK'D: JL

SCALE: 1:19,900

