

# **Mount Polley Mining Corporation**

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

## WEEKLY POST-TSF BREACH REPORT – WEEK OF MARCH 25 – 31, 2015

#### Water Management

Polley Lake Dewatering	Polley Lake water elevation = 922.67 m (April 1 <sup>st</sup> ) Water levels are currently below the elevation of the Polley Lake outlet structure that is being constructed.
TSF Water Management	All water from the TSF water collection system continues to be transferred to the Springer Pit via the Central Collection Sump. No releases of water to the environment occurred this week. Refer to previous weekly reports, such as the December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2014 report, for an overview map of the system.

#### Government, First Nations and Stakeholder Engagement

Publication of Monitoring Results and Rehabilitation 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 ( <u>http://www.imperialmetals.com/s/Home.asp</u> ). No updates were posted this week.
Engagement Activities and Communications with Regulators	<ul> <li>Activities relating to government, First Nations, and stakeholder communication and engagement this week included: <ul> <li>The weekly Ministry of Environment (MoE) update meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>A MoE Environmental Working Group meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>A Regional Mine Development Review Committee Meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>A Community Open House is scheduled at the Likely Hall from 7:00 – 9:00pm on April 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul>

#### Sediment and Erosion Control Measures

Silt Curtain	The turbidity barrier (silt curtain) installed in Quesnel Lake near the outlet of the new Edney (Hazeltine) Creek channel, downstream from the Lower Hazeltine Creek sedimentation ponds is in good condition.
General	Environmental monitors are monitoring creek sediment and erosion control and rehabilitation work in Upper, Middle, and Lower Hazeltine Creek.
	6,856 tonnes of tailings were removed from Hazeltine Creek this week and 28,092 tonnes of rock including rip rap, angular rock, and crushed rock were hauled to the Hazeltine Creek area for use in rehabilitation work. Screening of material for creation of fish habitat features at an on-site gravel pit continued this week.
	Rock liner material being used is low sulphur rock from the Cariboo Pit and a sampling program is in place to verify the chemistry of the rock. A sampling program to verify chemistry of creek subgrade material after tailings have been removed is also in place.
Upper Hazeltine Creek	Construction of the Polley Lake outlet structure is complete. Construction of the floodplain and channel grade upstream is underway.
	Construction of the flood plain and rocking in of the channel has been completed in Reach 1 and Reach 2 to within 100 metres of the Gavin Lake Road bridge.
Middle Hazeltine Creek	In Reach 3, rocking in of the channel has been completed to approximately 1000m downstream of the Gavin Lake Road bridge. Channel excavation has been completed to approximately 1500m downstream of the bridge. Beyond this point, grading out of the flood plain and filling in of the glacial till cuts is ongoing.
Lower Hazeltine and Edney Creeks	Tailings are being removed from the Quesnel Lake shoreline on the north side of the Edney (Hazeltine) Creek mouth.
	Channel upgrades are being completed, as necessary, in lower Edney Creek to manage high flows.
	Re-contouring and application of wood chip mulch and coarse woody debris for reclamation purposes are ongoing.

## **TSF Construction**

TSF Construction	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> , 2014. An update on work being completed under this approval is as follows:
	<ul> <li>Foundation preparation and material placement for Perimeter Embankment buttressing is ongoing.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Upstream Fill material placement for the cut-off wall is ongoing.</li> </ul>
	CSM (cutter soil mixing) Wall construction is ongoing.
	<ul> <li>Foundation preparation and placement immediately downstream of the cut-off wall (Phase 2 footprint) is ongoing.</li> </ul>
	Project components that have been completed to date under this approval are detailed in the March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 report.

# Water Quality Monitoring Program

Water Quality Monitoring Sites	<ul> <li>The water quality monitoring program currently consists of weekly samples at: <ul> <li>QUR-1 (Quesnel River at the Quesnel River Research Centre)</li> <li>HAC-08 (Hazeltine Creek upstream of the sedimentation ponds)</li> <li>HAC-01b (Hazeltine Creek at the outlet of the sedimentation ponds)</li> <li>EDC-02 (Edney Creek downstream of the new confluence with Hazeltine Creek, just upstream of Quesnel Lake).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sampling at these locations was not completed as scheduled on March 31<sup>st</sup> due to access constraints. These samples were taken on April 1<sup>st</sup>, as well as supplemental sampling at EDC-01 (Edney Creek just upstream from the confluence with Hazeltine).</li> <li>Weekly sampling at site HAC-05 (Hazeltine Creek at the Gavin Lake Road) has been temporarily discontinued because active reclamation and erosion control works are ongoing in this section of the creek.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>All scheduled monitoring of Queshel Lake was not conducted this week due to weather conditions that made boating unsafe. Monitoring completed included: <ul> <li>Profiles at sites: QUL-21a, QUL-54, QUL-56, QUL-40a, QUL-79, and QUL-120a</li> <li>Samples at sites: QUL-54, QUL-56</li> </ul> </li> <li>Please refer to past weekly reports for sample location maps (December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 for an overview map, and March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for a map of sites QUL-54, QUL-55, and QUL-56).</li> </ul>
Continuous Monitoring	The monitoring program also includes a sonde (datalogger) that is deployed in the Quesnel River at monitoring site QUR-1. The sonde measures field parameters (turbidity, pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, and temperature) every 15 minutes. A second sonde which measures the same parameters at the same frequency is deployed at the outlet of the Lower Hazeltine Creek sedimentation ponds.
Results	Figure 1 shows a turbidity time series graph for Lower Hazeltine Creek since commissioning of the sedimentation ponds on December 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014. From February 15 <sup>th</sup> onward (after Edney Creek was diverted from the sedimentation ponds into its new channel, which converges with Hazeltine Creek downstream of the sedimentation ponds), data are shown for Hazeltine and Edney Creeks upstream and downstream of their confluence.
	Figure 2 shows a time series graph for turbidity and flow rate at the Ditch Road bridge (Lower Hazeltine Creek).
	Figure 3 shows a time series graph of turbidity at site QUR-1. Turbidity data are from laboratory analysis completed by ALS Environmental.
	Figure 4 shows a turbidity and temperature profile from March 25 <sup>th</sup> at site QUL-120a in Quesnel Lake (in the East Basin, approximately 5km east of Cariboo Island).

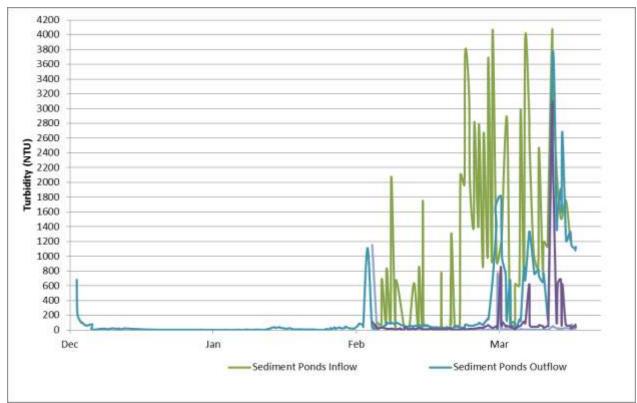


Figure 1. Turbidity time series graph for Hazeltine Creek upstream of the sedimentation ponds (February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>), downstream of the sedimentation ponds (December 12<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>), for Edney Creek in its new channel (February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>), and the combined Edney/Hazeltine Creek outflow into Quesnel Lake (February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>)

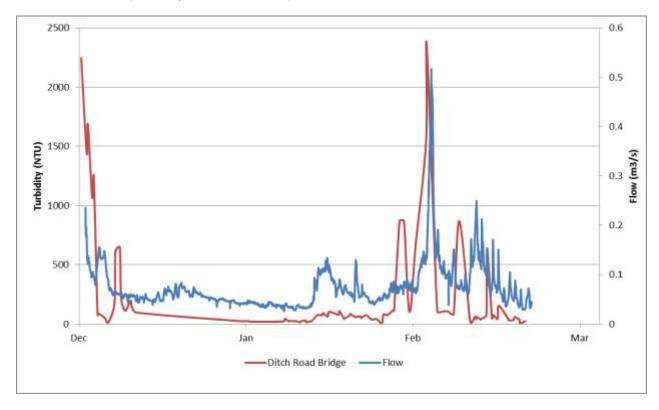


Figure 2. Turbidity versus flow rate time series graph for Lower Hazeltine Creek at the Ditch Road Bridge (December 12<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>)

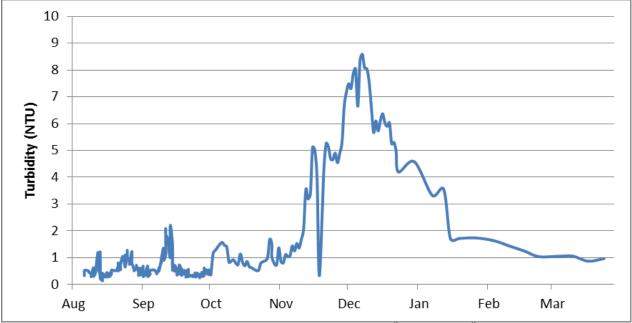


Figure 3. Turbidity time series at sample location QUR-1 (August 6<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>)

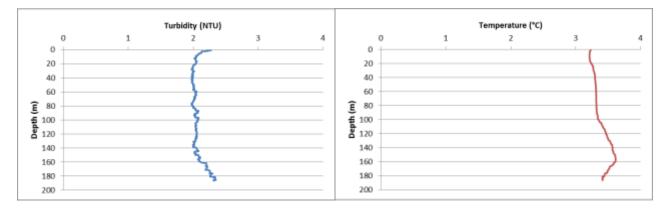


Figure 4. Turbidity and temperature profiles from site QUL-120a (March 25<sup>th</sup>)