

From: Narynski, Heather M MEM:EX
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 4:59 PM
To: Warnock, George MEM:EX
Cc: Rothman, Stephen MEM:EX; Hoffman, Al MEM:EX
Subject: Mt. Polley TSF dam freeboard

Hi George,

I provide the following brief summary in response to the notification MEM received today regarding a potential "dam breach" at the Mt. Polley TSF.

- Event occurred on Saturday, May 24th as a result of a large rainfall event (approx 24 mm in 24 hrs) – still ongoing precipitation on site
- Water level rose to within 0.7 m freeboard (possibly less freeboard).
- Luke has indicated that they don't believe the dam "overtopped" but will be checking data records (he was on the road when the event occurred) – however our "notification" indicated otherwise.
- No additional water is being directed to the TSF and instead is being sent to the mill as well as an option to redirect to one of the pits if needed
- No snow remains in catchment area for additional water
- Standing water was observed at the toe of the downstream dam – cannot test water to see whether it's from the TSF as the water is now gone.
- No sediment was observed within the seepage
- TSF water levels are now being monitored daily (and MEM recommended to monitor more frequently as required)
- MEM recommended that all staff are familiarized with emergency response procedures should there be more issues arising with the dam
- Mt. Polley is currently raising the dam core at approximately 5 low spots including corner "3" which was the area indicated in the "notification".
- All dam raises are within permitted elevation (El. 970 m)
- Mt. Polley confirmed that last year's dam raise was constructed as per the design and incorporated the stabilization berm (an As-built report was submitted to MEM)
- AMEC is currently present on site and are evaluating the situation and any resulting design implications
- MEM asked Luke to follow-up with a geotechnical incident form (and in future provide MEM with a call regarding similar events) – would be considered a dangerous occurrence
- Previously scheduled meeting for June 2nd will discuss the incident in more detail once Mt. Polley has time to review the data and will also include discussion around future dam construction and requirements to move toward an FOS of 1.5 (currently at 1.3)
- Michael Cullen was part of the discussions and will be carrying out a site inspection this year (his site inspection could be moved forward if considered necessary)

At this time it appears Mt. Polley has the situation under control. Follow-up will be required to confirm whether "overtopping" and a possible unauthorized discharge occurred as well as discussions on future dam design and operations.

My apologies for the brief summary, but it's been a busy day. If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to give me a call.

Thanks,
Heather

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