



January 9, 2015

Al Hoffman, Chief Inspector of Mines
Ministry of Energy and Mines
Via e-mail: Al.Hoffman@gov.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

**Re: 2014 Dam Safety Inspection Report for Little OK Lake
(Formerly Alwin Tailings Dam)**

This letter is in response to your order notice dated August 18, 2014, instructing the Thompson-Okanagan Fish and Wildlife Program of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) to complete a “dam safety inspection and independent third party review of the dam safety inspection” of the Little OK Lake Dam (formerly known as the Alwin Tailings Dam) located about 30 km west of Logan Lake, B.C.

FLNR commissioned Klohn Crippen Berger (KCB) to complete a Dam Safety Inspection (DSI). This inspection was conducted on October 29, 2014, and the report was issued on November 28, 2014. As per the Chief Inspector’s Order, a third party, Peter Lighthall, P.Eng., was hired to review the DSI and this review was completed on November 27, 2014. These reports are available at our office if required.

The following table identifies the recommendations, actions/commitments, and the implementation schedule for the 2014 DSI.

Recommendations	Commitments/Schedules
No physical entity to maintain the dam	Completed – FLNR is now the dam owner.
Clean up oil barrels and debris near seepage pond	Not Applicable – Not a dam safety issue but is noted for the attention of MEM
Remove excess road surfacing materials from spillway	Pending – Funding will be secured to complete a 200 year flood assessment to determine if necessary - Summer 2015
Complete a OMS Manual	Completed – OMS Manual completed – January 2015
Locate as-built drawings	Ongoing – Staff will locate as-built drawings - 2015
Confirm if geotechnical review by C.O. Brawner exists	Completed – Report indicated no stability concerns – January 2015
Carry out DSR to review dam classification	Not Required – It was confirmed with the Dam Safety Officer that the dam classification is Significant not High - January 2015

Confirm if there are functional instruments and if so obtain readings	Ongoing – Contract staff will confirm if instrument exist and obtain readings - Spring 2015
Define monitoring and instrument reading frequency and include in OMS	Completed – Instrument readings (if found) will be taken as dictated by seepage rates from seepage pond – January 2015
Define monitoring frequency of flow rate and water quality measurements	Completed – Flow rate from seepage pond will be monitored once yearly – January 2015
Remove trees and bushes from spillway	Ongoing – Contract staff will cut and remove trees and bushes from spillway - Spring 2015
Remove logs from spillway	Ongoing – Contract staff will remove logs from spillway – Spring 2015
Extend cobble in upper section of spillway to full road depth	Ongoing – Contract staff will install cobble to spillway – Summer 2015
Adjust spillway invert to design elevation	Pending – Funding will be secured to complete 200 year flood assessment to determine if necessary - Summer 2015
Inspect and repair erosion areas in lower portion of spillway	Ongoing – Contract staff will inspect and repair erosion areas identified – Spring 2015
Close off access to underground workings. Reclaim old mine site	Not Applicable – Not a dam safety issue but is noted for the attention of MEM

Mr. Lighthall's third party review concluded that the DSI conducted by KCB provided a good summary of the status of the Alwin tailings dam and addressed the key issues as per the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) Guidelines for Annual Dam Safety Inspection Reports. It also stated that the recommendations provided in the 2014 DSI were considered appropriate and should be followed; however, for the additional items identified that were not related to the ownership of the water license (i.e. reclamation of old mine site, removal of mining debris, closure of adit), these will be brought to the attention of the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

As indicated in the table above, all of the applicable items have been completed or will be completed before the end of 2015. Please contact me if you require further information.

Yours truly,



Ted Zimmerman
Director, Resource Management

cc: Heather Narynski, Ministry of Energy & Mines, Heather.Narynski@gov.bc.ca
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