



Date: January 27, 2015

To: John P. Thompson, President and CEO
Blackdome- Sona Resources Corp.
[Sent by Email: info@sonaresources.com]

Cc: Diane Howe, Deputy Chief Inspector, Reclamation and Permitting, MEM
George Warnock, Manager, Geotechnical Engineering, MEM
Heather Narynski, Sr. Geotechnical Inspector, MEM

Re: **Review of Submission in Response to Chief Inspector's Orders Issued on August 18, 2014**

The Ministry of Energy and Mines has engaged a consulting firm to evaluate the consistency and compliance of your submission in response to the Chief Inspector's orders issued on August 18, 2014. This high-level review has determined that your submission satisfies the requirements of the Order; however, the following items shall be addressed:

Dam Safety Inspection (DSI) Report:

- For consistency with MEM's Dam Safety Inspection Guidelines and good engineering practice, the next DSI submission shall include:
 - Review of climate data

In addition to the requirements listed above, all recommendations made by your consultants within each document submitted, shall be addressed in the timeframe specified. MEM will be following-up in the fall of 2015 to obtain a status update with respect to all recommendations and commitments, as well as any submission deficiencies noted above.

This review is specific to the orders issued on August 18, 2014, which does not encompass all aspects of dam safety in relation to the tailings dam(s). Please ensure that you are meeting your ongoing requirements with respect to the following:


- Satisfying any outstanding orders from previous Ministry inspection reports.
- Satisfying any outstanding recommendations from previous Dam Safety Inspections (DSI) or Dam Safety Reviews (DSR).
- Submission of annual Dam Safety Inspection (DSI) reports as per Section 10.5.3 of the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC (Code). These reports are to be submitted by March 31st in the year following the inspection. The next DSI (for 2015) will be due March 31, 2016.

- Submission of Dam Safety Review (DSR) reports based on the dam consequence classification frequency as outlined in the Canadian Dam Association (CDA), 2007 Dam Safety Guidelines. The DSR shall follow APEGBC's "Professional Practice Guidelines for Legislated Dam Safety Reviews in BC". This document can be located at: <http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/MINING/PERMITTING-RECLAMATION/GEOTECH/Pages/default.aspx>, or on the APEGBC website.
- A current Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance (OMS) manual which shall be regularly revised during operations, decommissioning and closure as per Section 10.5.2 of the Code.
- A current Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) and Dam Break Inundation Study which shall be regularly revised (applies to "high", "very high" and "extreme" consequence dams).
- Submission of as-built reports subsequent to new construction and any dam raise as per Section 10.5.1 of the Code.
- Submission of closure plans, and installation of a spillway, designed by a Professional Engineer, in accordance with the CDA, Dam Safety Guidelines prior to closure as per Sections 10.6.10 and 10.7.19 of the Code, respectively.

It is expected that you will ensure dam safety management is continuously reviewed, improved and refined throughout the life of mine.

Thank you for your submission to the orders of August 18, 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Hoffman", written over a horizontal line.

*Al Hoffman, P. Eng.
Chief Inspector of Mines
Ministry of Energy and Mines*