



Date: September 30, 2015

To: Robbin Harmati, BC Properties Closure Manager
Barrick Gold Inc., Giant Nickel Mine/Pride of Emory

Cc: Diane Howe, Deputy Chief Inspector, Reclamation and Permitting, MEM
Heather Narynski, A/ Manager, Geotechnical Engineering, MEM

Re: **Review of Letter of Assurance Submission from June 30, 2015**

The Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) has engaged a consulting firm to evaluate the consistency and compliance of your letter of assurance in response to the Chief Inspector's orders issued on February 3, 2015. This review has determined that your submission satisfies the requirements of the order.

Below is a summary of the assessment made by your Qualified Professional Engineer (QPE), it is understood that no immediate gaps have been identified:

Status of Foundation Condition

"Based on the reviewed geotechnical information, weak silt and/or clay soil layers do not exist in the Giant Nickel Upper TSF or Lower TSF embankment foundations."

Status of Water Balance Adequacy

"There is a small pond located at the southwest toe of the Upper TSF, well below the closed and capped impoundment surface. The potential for uncontrolled release of fluids and transported solids, and the consequences of any such release, has been significantly reduced by the permanent removal of the water ponds that started this year. The Lower TSF (which currently can store precipitation and runoff water) has emergency outlets established at its south and north abutments. These outlet channels, most recently remediated in March 2015, were designed to safely pass the 1:10,000 year flood and thus prevent water from flowing over the embankment crest."

Status of Filter Adequacy

"The Upper and Lower TSF dams were built as homogeneous earthfill embankments and thus do not contain filter zones. Barrick recognizes the potential for piping associated with this abandoned decant structure and the remnant decant pond in the Lower TSF and has scheduled the permanent water pond removal to mitigate the residual risk."

Please ensure that any recommendations made by your Qualified Professional Engineer have been addressed.

The orders issued on February 3, 2015 have been requested to provide assurance the conditions at the Mount Polley dam do not exist in other facilities. Please ensure that you are meeting your other ongoing requirements to ensure Tailings Storage Facility safety 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).

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 February 3, 2015.

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*