

**Environmental  
Resources  
Management**

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24 November 2014

Mr. Chris Fleming  
Superintendent Tailings and Water Management  
Teck Highland Valley Copper  
PO Box 1500  
Logan Lake, British Columbia V0K 1W0



Subject: Tabletop Tests of Emergency Preparedness  
& Response Plans, 17 and 18 October 2014

Dear Mr. Fleming:

Thank you for including the Environmental Resources Management (ERM) project team in the Teck Highland Valley Copper (HVC) Tabletop Tests of Emergency Preparedness & Response Plans (EPRPs) for tailings dams this past 17 and 18 October. While we are aware HVC conducts regular testing of EPRPs as part of the operation's Tailings Management System, I wanted to share with you a few observations made by ERM staff that facilitated this most recent session:

1. The EPRP test session was well attended by key personnel at HVC that would play a role in dam safety emergencies at HVC. This included operations personnel, emergency responders, senior management, and the General Manager. This is a testament to the commitment placed on the program by senior management at HVC, and the recognition of the importance of testing and continually improving these programs.
2. Representatives from external response agencies also participated in the test. The inclusion of these external parties in the test event and the communication observed between HVC and outside parties is a very positive coordination step.
3. The discussion that took place throughout the session and the debrief that followed showed that the exercise was valuable as a learning opportunity for all involved.
4. The values communicated by senior management should an actual emergency occur were clear – preservation of life was the number one priority by HVC personnel in all seven hypothetical scenarios that were performed. This focus on the safety of employees and community members above all else cannot be overemphasized.

The significant amount of preparation and enthusiasm demonstrated by HVC personnel leading up to the test is commendable. Throughout our involvement in various tailings and water related projects over the past 3 years, we have been impressed with the rigor with which ongoing monitoring and measurement activities feed into the emergency planning and response capabilities at the mine. While the Chief Inspector's Order in August certainly raised the profile of dam safety across British Columbia, it is clear that HVC has been proactively managing tailings and water management as part of everyday operations and not only as a response to a specific event.

Thanks again for including us in the exercise. We hope you and your staff continue to build on the program and set a high bar for safety related to tailings and water management.

Regards,



Robert Newman  
*Partner*



Casey Bates  
*Project Manager*

CB/RN/pm