



Date: September 30, 2015

To: Robbin Harmati, BC Properties Closure Manager
Barrick Gold Corporation, Nickel Plate

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

"Similar foundation conditions (i.e. an extensive layer of fine-grained soil susceptible to undrained failure under loading by the TSF) do not exist below the Nickel Plate embankments."

Status of Water Balance Adequacy

"No new process-affected water or other surplus mine water has been added to the remnant, unlined pond on the TSF since the end of mine and mill operations and placement of the TSF cover soil, some twenty years ago. The closed Nickel Plate TSF maintains sufficient freeboard to contain all of the inflow from the 24-hour Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) over its undiverted catchment area."

Status of Filter Adequacy

"As stated in the as-built report for the TSF starter Dam and the Freshwater Reservoir Dams (Robinson Dames & Moore, 1986b), the drainage blankets and finger drains were constructed to design requirements."

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*