Date: September 30, 2015

To: Robbin Harmati, BC Properties Closure Manager
Barrick Gold Inc., Eskay Creek Mine

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

> *"Strata of loose silt, sand and gravel and underlying weak, lacustrine silt were identified within the foundations of the Dyke 1 and Dyke 3 tailings dams at Snip during pre-development site investigations. Within the dam footprints, the upper silt, sand and gravel materials were densified by dynamic compaction to a depth of about 7 m below the effective depths for ground treatment, strength parameters estimated using the results of in situ testing were used for geotechnical design."*

Status of Water Balance Adequacy

> *"Under current conditions, water is impounded in the south and central portions of the Snip TSF (i.e., against Dyke 1), to within about 200 m of the Dyke 3 crest. This water is understood to be predominantly the result of runoff and direct precipitation reporting to the TSF, with a minor contribution from the former underground mine works. The water impounded in the Snip TSF is released year-round via the overflow spillway. The right abutment spillway at Dyke 1 was designed to pass the inflow from the 24-hour Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) over its undiverted catchment area."*

Status of Filter Adequacy

> *"Dyke 1 and Dyke 3 were provided with internal blanket and finger drains to help maintain a low phreatic surface within the downstream portion of the embankments. No internal filter or transition material zones were included in the embankment sections. Treatment of the localized seepage observed during mine operations at Dyke 1 in June 1997 appeared to have been successful, and the area was further protected by construction of the downstream closure buttress. The impounded tailings; the low-permeability, sand and silt core; the supporting sand and gravel fill; and the waste rock and the select cobble drainage materials were determined in the original design to be respectively filter-compatible, and were reportedly constructed in accordance with design."*

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

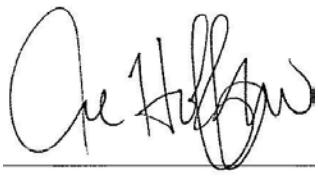
The orders issued on February 3, 2015 have been requested to provide assurance the conditions at the Mount Polley dam do not exist in other facilities. Please ensure that you are meeting your other ongoing requirements to ensure Tailings Storage Facility safety with respect to the following:

- 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,



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