



April 3, 2020

By email: To all Mine Managers

Re: Reminder of Proactive Preparedness for Spring Melt Runoff and Freshet Flows

This letter provides notification of higher than average snow packs in many areas of the province. Overall, the province has an above normal snowpack as of March 1st (average of all snow measurements across the province is 111% of normal, locally up to 135% of normal). This information is expected to be updated April 8th. To view snow conditions, current water levels, and flood forecasting specific to your region, please refer to the BC River Forecast Centre website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre>

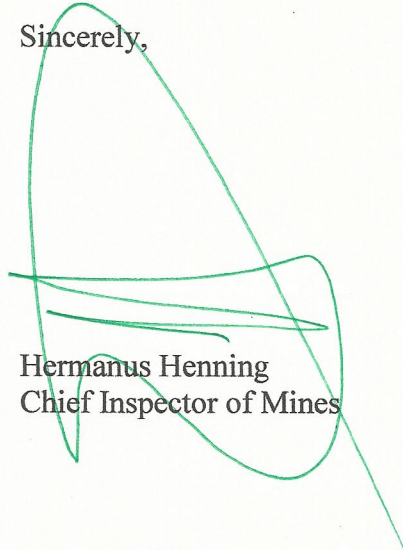
With spring melt and freshet quickly approaching, these higher than average snow conditions have the potential to result in flooding in many areas of the province. Extreme runoff events have the potential to compromise maintaining environment water quality, cause erosional damage to water management infrastructure, and can result in major slope instabilities if water is not managed accordingly. In the past, mines in BC have also experienced landslides and debris flows that have impeded access and egress from sections of mines or main mine access routes.

The ongoing and rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation has resulted in many mines implementing work force reductions, operational modifications, or short-term site shutdowns. The COVID-19 situation has also impacted numerous communities and local businesses, potentially including suppliers and operators of materials and equipment typically relied upon for freshet or emergency response. EMPR expects that all Mine Managers are reviewing any site management or response plans related to freshet runoff management or response (e.g. OMS manuals, site monitoring plans, site water management plans, emergency preparedness and response plans, mine emergency response plans, Trigger-Action-Response-Plans (TARPs)), and are making appropriate modifications to capture any potential challenges or impacts resulting from the COVID-19 situation.

EMPR wishes to remind all Mine Managers of the need to maintain vigilance of site monitoring and water management during freshet periods. Take the time to recognize all higher risk areas of your mine sites and regularly assess the adequacy of monitoring at those locations. Please ensure that all staff responsible for implementing freshet runoff management or response plans are aware of their roles (including any modifications necessary to account for challenges arising from the COVID-19 situation) and are prepared to act in that capacity. Contingency resources (e.g. pumps and hoses) should be available and operable on short-notice if needed.

You are also reminded of your duty to keep the Chief Inspector (contact information below) and the site Health and Safety Inspector(s) apprised of any significant events that occur or if monitoring indicates that site conditions have the potential to result in major surface instabilities or impacts to the environment. Your attention to this matter is essential to ensure the ongoing protection of environmental quality and the health and safety of all mine employees, contractors, and members of the public.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in green ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Hermanus Henning
Chief Inspector of Mines