



NOV 05 2014

MINISTER OF
MINERAL RESOURCES

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

OCT 31 2014

Mr. Wade Luzny
CEO & Executive Vice-President
Canadian Wildlife Federation
350, promenade Michael Cowpland Drive
Kanata ON K2M 2W1

Dear Mr. Luzny:


Thank you for your recent letter to The Honourable Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba regarding the failure of the Imperial Metals tailings pond in Quesnel Lake, B.C. As Minister of Manitoba Mineral Resources your letter was forwarded to me for response.

I understand that the failure of a tailings dam at the Mount Polley mine in central B.C. has raised concerns that a similar accident could potentially occur in Manitoba. In Manitoba all mine tailings management areas are licensed under the Environment Act and are designed to nationally accepted standards by professional engineers licensed to practice in Manitoba with this specific expertise. Environment Act licences include a number of terms and conditions to address integrity of the tailings pond(s). Examples include monitoring of pore pressures, ground settlement, lateral displacement, and monitoring surface and groundwater.

The Department of Mineral Resources has contacted the four active mining companies in Manitoba about their tailing impoundment operation, maintenance and integrity programs. Labour and Immigration, the department responsible for mines inspection, works with Mineral Resources to ensure the continued integrity of tailing impoundment areas.

Thank you for your concern and please follow up with the Chris Beaumont-Smith at 204-945-6566 from the Department of Mineral Resources if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Dave Chomiak

- c. The Honourable Greg Selinger, Premier
- Honourable Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship
- Honourable Erna Braun, Minister of Labour and Immigration