



**Environment
Office of the Minister**

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SEP 29 2014

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

Dear Mr. Luzny:

Thank you for your letter of August 22, 2014, to the Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia, regarding tailings pond safety and protecting the environment. Premier McNeil has asked me to respond on his behalf in my capacity as Minister of Nova Scotia Environment.

To prevent the possibility of a tailings pond failure, Nova Scotia has a series of environmental legislative requirements in place. Proponents of mine site applications, including those with tailings ponds, are required to complete a successful environmental assessment review and an industrial approval application review where tailings pond planning, design, construction, monitoring and maintenance are closely peer-reviewed by Nova Scotia Environment (NSE). The proponents' professional engineers are required to design and confirm the structural integrity of the dams, the water balance and the flow control structures of the tailings ponds.

Subsequent to NSE review and approval, terms and conditions are attached to approvals, requiring ongoing monitoring of tailings ponds to ensure a breach of the tailings dams or flow control structure does not occur. The mining company/proponent is required to report on the status of monitoring programs to NSE. This, along with scheduled inspections by NSE and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff, help ensure that the possibility of a pond failure is minimized.

Thank you again for your inquiry. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact Mr. Malcolm MacNeil, Environmental Engineer in NSE's Sydney office, at (902) 563-0538.

Sincerely,

Randy Delorey, MLA
Minister of Nova Scotia Environment

c: The Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia
Malcolm MacNeil, Environmental Engineer