

From: Mark Burke
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 10:36 AM
To: Les Galbraith
CC: Ken Brouwer
Subject: Mount Polley Update

FYI:

Zone FT

The 3,4,5 blend looks good on paper, but after inspecting the area I believe the samples are not representative. The possible Zone FT material currently exposed in the Wight pit is too variable to provide a good free draining replacement for the filter fabric. There are thin layers (1 ft thick) that are suitable for Zone F or Zone FT, however separating this material from the silt layers is not practical. MPMC may find thicker layers as they get deeper in the pit, as this was the case in borrow are 3. In my opinion the material currently exposed in the Wight pit should not be used as Zone FT. There is too much silt. The material in the Wight pit is suitable for Zone U.

Tailings deposition:

When I arrived on site MPMC was discharging tailings at the corner of the Main and Perimeter Embankments. I immediately told Ron Martel that this is not a suitable discharge point and the tailings should be discharging from the South Embankment. The problem is that at the corner of the Main and Perimeter Embankments there was no Zone U placed for a few hundred meters. The CBL was placed to 944m and the tailings beach was at 944.2 on Monday. In other words the Zone U cell was filling up with tailings. On Tuesday I inspected this area and an additional foot of water is now on top of the CBL directly adjacent the core. This water did not drain over night, the water will freeze before it drains. There is a 150m section directly adjacent the core that will be a skating rink by the end of the week. As a result of my concerns, last night they began discharging at the usual discharge point on the West Perimeter Embankment. Ron says it will be at least a week before they can move the pipeline to the South Embankment.

The upstream side of the core was placed at the angle of repose of the till. The intention was that there would be Zone U placed there immediately after the till was placed. This was not done because they initially planned on using the sand cell technique in this area. However this was never completed. The water against the core will cause the core to slough. They need to place Zone U ASAP in order to prevent losing sections of the core. I have a video camera on site and will continue to monitor this area closely.

Ron mentioned the possibility of delaying moving the tailings pipeline to the South Embankment until I have completed testing the basin liner. In my opinion these are two independent activities and the tailings deposition should be moved to the South Embankment as soon as possible.

Stage 5

Zone C placement has not yet commenced. Today they are raising the power lines so that the trucks can safely pass. It looks like they will begin Stage 5 by widening the Perimeter Embankment Haul road to the ultimate toe. Then they will begin placing Zone C on the Main Embankment.

Stage 5 survey support may be a problem, as it was during Stage 4. They only have one surveyor onsite who is always in the pit. They will most likely expect me to do all the surveying this winter which may not be possible due to the amount of engineering work to be done this winter.

Wight pit dewatering

Art is considering a slightly different route for the dewatering pipeline. The route he is thinking about goes slightly higher up the road before heading to the SESP ditch. The reason for this change is so the the pipeline does not pass under the dump. Don and Art are on site today and we will be discussing this issue later today.

Regards,
Mark Burke