

SEABRIDGE GOLD

August 21, 2019

Cy Gonick
Publisher and Coordinating Editor
Canadian Dimension

Via Email: editor@canadiandimension.com

Dear Mr. Gonick,

Recently you published an article titled, “*Tailings Dam Collapses in the Americas: Lessons Learned?*” The article stated that, “a study of four new transboundary copper-gold projects in the BC-Alaska border area, commissioned by civil society organizations in March 2016, found that not one project was following the expert panel recommendations” (referring to the British Columbia government’s establishment of an Independent Expert Engineering Panel post Mount Polley).

Seabridge Gold’s KSM Project is one of the four new transboundary projects referred to in this study, and I want to assure your readers that the KSM Project is following the Panel’s recommendations.

In response to the Mount Polley incident, and well in advance of the new BC regulatory requirement, Seabridge committed to the establishment of an Independent Geotechnical Review Board (IGRB) to oversee and comment of the design of the major structures planned for and not yet built at KSM. This board was formed in January 2015 and the members have combined worldwide experience in the management of large-scale geotechnical structures of more than 350 years.

In April 2016, the IGRB confirmed that the design of the proposed structures for our KSM Project were appropriate and were deemed safe. The findings of their first, second and third reports are publicly available on the KSM Project website.

Furthermore, in August 2015, in recognition that the KSM Project Provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) Certificate was issued prior to the Mount Polley incident, Seabridge on its own accord, initiated a Best Available Tailings (BAT) Technology review of the planned management approach for KSM, even though the planned management approach had received its environmental assessment approvals from both the Federal and Provincial governments, respectively, in 2014. This study went back to first principles and reevaluated all prior decisions made with respect to the TMF, including a review of the proposed TMF location as well as the planned waste deposit approach.

The BAT study confirmed that the existing tailing management facility design is the best available technology for tailings deposition and the most environmentally responsible design to minimize long term risks associated with the proposed tailing storage facility for the KSM Project. The BAT study conclusion confirmed the findings of KSM's Independent Geotechnical Review Board that the TMF's design is robust and appropriate for KSM's site specific characteristics and that dry stack tailing deposition methods were not appropriate.

As a further step in our review process of our proposed tailing management approach, well after receipt of the EA approvals, Seabridge commissioned an independent review of the BAT report by Dr. Dirk van Zyl. Dr. van Zyl is a world-recognized expert in tailings, mined-earth structures and sustainability with more than 40 years of experience. He also sat on the Mount Polley Independent Expert Review Panel. In his review, Dr. van Zyl stated: "I support the overall conclusions of the KSM BAT report."

Thus, contrary to the assertion of this article's author, Seabridge's KSM Project TMF design has been deemed to be considered BAT by several independent experts.

This information is readily available on the Seabridge and KSM Community websites, and I encourage your writers to source accurate information about the KSM Project at all times.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R Brent Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

R Brent Murphy, M.Sc., P.Geol.,
Vice President, Environmental Affairs
Seabridge Gold

cc. Judith Marshall