



August 19, 2020

Ref.: 111577

xRef: 110895

Mr. Bob Zimmer
Member of Parliament
Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies

Email: Bob.Zimmer.c1a@parl.gc.ca

cc: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

Dear MP Zimmer:

Thank you for your June 26, 2020 follow up letter regarding the timeline of the Chief Inspector of Mines' investigation into potential interactions between the Deasan Mine and the Old Fort landslide.

The Ministry investigates dangerous occurrences at mines to understand lessons learned and any ongoing or future actions required to protect worker health and safety and the environment. The Ministry releases information related to any immediate risks without waiting for an investigation to reach completion. In the case of the Deasan investigation, no such information has been found.

Further to my May 13, 2020 letter on this issue, the Chief Inspector is taking the time necessary to adequately consider all relevant information. The report and associated appendices will be shared with the Peace River Regional District (PRRD). The report will also be made publicly available on completion and following the required privacy assessment pursuant to FOIPPA. I have been advised that the report is in final stages but not yet complete.

Deasan Mine remains under a Stop Work Order, and there is no potential for mining activity to impact slope stability and no risk to worker health and safety while that Order remains in place. The mining company will not be allowed to resume operation until they have demonstrated that it is safe to do so.

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The recent (2020) ground movement is being monitored by organizations that were involved in the response to the 2018 slide. Specifically, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) is monitoring ground movement related to the public right of way through the slide and they are sharing information, resources and data with the other parties including: the PRRD, Emergency Management BC, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and my Ministry.

In addition to ongoing monitoring, MoTI has now opened a temporary access road to maintain access to Old Fort, and Emergency Management BC has provided funding to the PRRD to conduct a wider geotechnical study that will complement the work of MoTI to ensure that residents remain safe in their homes and reveal any changes from previous studies. Emergency Management BC is developing a letter in response to questions and concerns presented by the Concerned Citizens of Old Fort. This correspondence will reflect input from provincial agencies, including my Ministry, and I understand that you will receive a copy. Provincial agencies continue to work collaboratively with the PRRD.

Thank you, again, for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Ralston", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce Ralston
Minister



May 13, 2020

Ref.: 110895

xRef: 108426

Mr. Bob Zimmer
Member of Parliament
Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies

Email: Bob.Zimmer@parl.gc.ca

cc: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

Dear MP Zimmer:

Thank you for your April 24, 2020 follow up letter regarding the timeframe for the reopening of Deasan Holdings Ltd.'s gravel mine in the Peace region.

I can assure you that the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources inspectors and senior geotechnical specialists are working diligently to review and process the Deasan application to resume mining. This process includes an in-depth review of the geotechnical assessment information provided by Deasan in support of the application.

The Ministry understands the importance of resuming mining for Deasan, and we will continue to work with them toward that objective. The landslide that occurred above the community of Old Fort is an extraordinary occurrence. All necessary precautions must be taken to address any risks involved in the resumption of mining.

I will keep you up to date as work on this issue progresses.

Thank you, again, for writing.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ralston
Minister

Ministry of
Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources

Office of the Minister

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