



JUN 27 2016

MR. TOM BEAULIEU
MLA, TU NEDHE-WIILIDEH

Oral Question 201-18(2): Remediation of Pine Point Mine and Town Sites

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on June 9, 2016 regarding the Remediation of Pine Point Mine and Town Sites.

Teck Cominco Metals Ltd. currently holds a valid Water Licence for the post closure monitoring, treatment and discharge of water associated with the Pine Point Tailings Containment Facility with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) and has been maintaining a Water Licence since the completion of remediation activities on the site. As this site currently has a Water Licence and Operator, it is not considered an abandoned site.

Historically, the remediation and post closure operations were inspected by the federal government. On April 1, 2014, the site inspections under the MVLWB authorizations were transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). The Pine Point Mine site was not identified to be retained by the federal government through the Devolution Final Agreement. However, the Pine Point Rail Bed was identified to be retained by the federal government through that agreement. Currently, as the Pine Point Mine site is not an abandoned site, it does not fall under the mandate of the contaminated sites program.

The Government of Canada (GOC) has completed Environmental Site Assessments (ESA's) and a Risk Assessment on the rail bed outside of the block land transfer (BLT) areas of Pine Point and Hay River. In the summer of 2016, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will conduct the Phase I and II ESA of the Pine Point Rail Bed, within the BLT areas, to provide supporting information in future negotiations with the GOC to determine responsibility for potential remediation of these areas.

Thank you.

Wally Schumann
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive