

**IN THE MATTER OF PROJECT APPROVAL CERTIFICATE # 96-07  
(Mount Polley Copper/Gold Project)**

**CONSENT FOR MATERIAL ALTERATION**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. Imperial Metals Corporation received project certification in the form of a Mine Development Certificate on or about October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1992 and that this Certificate continued in force as a Project Approval Certificate # 96-07 pursuant to the *Environmental Assessment Act* R.S.B.C 1996, c.119 and an Environmental Assessment Certificate pursuant to the *Environmental Assessment Act*, S.B.C 2002, c.43 (the "EAC").
- B. The EAC was transferred to the Mount Polley Holding Company which subsequently changed its name to the Mount Polley Mining Corporation.
- C. Condition 2 of the EAC provides that: Imperial Metals shall, prior to any material alteration of the Development as described in the Application, obtain the written consent of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (now known as the Minister of Energy and Mines) and the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks (now known as the Minister of Environment), and the Minister of Energy and Mines may determine what constitutes a material alteration to the Project.
- D. On November 23, 2015, the Minister of Energy and Mines and the Minister of Environment provided consent to the short term water discharge to Hazeltine Creek and via pipeline to Quesnel Lake as a material alteration to the EAC.
- E. On October 20, 2016, Mount Polley Mining Corporation submitted an application for water treatment and discharge for the remainder of mine life to the Ministry of Environment, seeking authorization under the *Environmental Management Act* for a discharge of mine effluent to Quesnel Lake during the remainder of operations. The Long-Term Water Management Plan by which site water is managed, also includes conceptual plans for treatment and discharge at closure involving passive water treatment at the mine site.
- F. As the Short Term Water Discharge plan for the project was determined to be a material alteration to the originally certified project by the Minister of Energy and Mines, Mount Polley Mining Corporation has also submitted the long term effluent discharge with a request for consent for a material alteration, since it includes a longer duration and a different discharge configuration.

- G. The Ministry of the Environment has reviewed the Long-Term Water Management Plan and is considering the permit amendment application by Mount Polley Mining Corporation for the operational effluent discharge to Quesnel Lake to address the management of mine water during the remainder of mine life.
  
- H. The Ministry of Environment recommends that the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Energy and Mines consent to the material alteration under Condition 2 of the EAC to allow the Long Term Water Management Plan.

**NOW THEREFORE:**

The undersigned Ministers pursuant to Condition 2 of the EAC hereby do consent to the Long-Term Water Management Plan, involving operational discharge to Quesnel Lake and discharge at closure involving passive water treatment at the mine site, as a material alteration to the EAC.



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Honourable Mary Polak  
Minister of Environment



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Honourable Bill Bennett  
Minister of Energy and Mines

Issued this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.