

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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August 13, 2012

The Honorable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3
Canada

Dear Minister Kent:

I write to you about the recent closure of the Interim Water Treatment Plant at the Tulsequah Chief Mine site.

The City and Borough of Juneau has been monitoring the Tulsequah Chief proposal, and has participated in public meetings for many years. The Taku River provides significant economic, recreational, and cultural benefits to Juneau and the remainder of Southeast Alaska. For that reason, the health and productivity of the river and its fish and wildlife are of great concern to us.

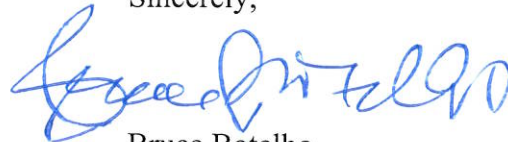
On August 19, 2010, I wrote Environment Canada regarding Chieftain's proposal to develop the Tulsequah Chief Mine. One of my major concerns at that time was whether Chieftain had the capacity to properly address the ongoing acid mine drainage pollution issue. In its August 22, 2010 reply, Environment Canada observed that the Environmental Assessment certificate for the mine contained a number of commitments related to the acid mine drainage problem. My concern was, and remains, that the mining company would not have the resources to follow through on those commitments.

We have not seen a response from the Canadian or British Columbia regulatory agencies regarding Chieftain's closure of the water treatment plant, nor have we seen a specific plan and timeline for the company to re-start the plant. While Chieftain's June 6, 2012 letter to Environment Canada references a number of options, it is unclear if these options are workable, when they would be implemented, and if Chieftain can raise funds sufficient to re-start the water treatment plant.

In any event, it would seem prudent to explore what alternatives exist, not only to treat the acid mine drainage in the immediate term, but also to provide a permanent remedy that does not depend on Chieftain or a developed mine.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Bruce Botelho
Mayor

cc:

Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator - Alaska
Senator Mark Begich, U.S. Senator - Alaska
Representative Don Young, U.S. Representative - Alaska
David A. Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Kim Elton, U.S. Department of the Interior
Pamela Bergman, U.S. Department of the Interior
Steven Wiener, Environmental Protection Agency
Cindi Godsey, Environmental Protection Agency
The Honorable Christy Clark, Premier
The Honorable Keith Ashfield, Minister, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
The Honorable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment
The Honorable Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines
Senator Dennis Egan
Representative Beth Kerttula
Representative Cathy Munoz
Cora Campbell, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Gordy Williams, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sharmon Stambaugh, Alaska Department of Natural Resources