

COMMUNICATION FROM MINISTRY OF MINES TO MLA LAURIE THRONESS

Dated Thursday, March 16, 2017

In terms of the current status of this issue:

- Ministry inspectors issued a written order that blasting not be conducted until a geotechnical evaluation has been submitted and accepted by the Chief Inspector.
 - A protective berm was constructed by the mine on February 23 above one residence on Vedder Mountain Road.
 - A Geotechnical report has been prepared by a consultant working for the mine. The report concludes that the slope failure was likely induced by a blast in the northwest corner of the quarry.
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- Three Ministry of Energy and Mines inspectors were on site on March 8 to review the current site conditions, the slopes below the quarry and blasting records.

The next steps include:

- The mine is to conduct work along the north ridge to further stabilize the slope immediately below the quarry.
- The mine is to provide a blasting plan to the Ministry, prepared by an independent blasting consultant and signed off by a Professional Engineer, that indicates how they can proceed with future blasting in a manner which will not compromise the slope below the quarry.
- The mine will monitor all blasts at a site along the north ridge and a site along Vedder Mountain Road in order to determine the peak particle velocity at those sites from all blasts.
- The current moratorium on blasting will continue until such time as the blasting plan prepared by the independent consultant is found acceptable by the Ministry.
- Should the Ministry accept the blasting plan, it will allow blasting only on a graduated basis, keeping all blasting away from the ridge and the initiation zone of the landslide until such time as the Ministry is satisfied that blasting can be conducted safely closer to those areas.