Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [our file # ENV/001/2013]

On January 3, 2013 the Department of Environment and Conservation received your request for access to the following records:

"Any and all communications from Dec. 17, 2012 – Dec. 28, 2012 to and from the Minister of Environment and Conservation regarding the Town of South Brook, mine tailings and/or the Gullbridge mine."

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted in part. Access to specific text contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act):

Section 20(1)(c): "The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal consultations or deliberations involving officers or employees of a public body, a minister or the staff of a minister."

Section 24(1)(g): "The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the financial or economic interest of the government of the province or a public body"

Section 30(1): "The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy"

Access has been provided to all remaining text and no pages required exemption from the responsive documents. Copies of the referenced sections from the Act are enclosed. For your additional consideration, please be advised that extensive information on the Gullbridge site is available on the Department of Environment and Conservation website at the following link:

As required by subsection 7(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is exempted from disclosure and have provided you with as much information as possible.

Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this partial refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall be made in writing within 60 days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
34 Pippy Place
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

In the event that you choose to appeal to the Trial Division, you must do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. Section 60 of the Act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the ATIPP Coordinator at (709) 729-7393 or ellenhaskell@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely yours,

BILL PARROTT
Deputy Minister
Information Note
Department of Environment and Conservation

Title: Gullbridge Mine Dam Failure and South Brook Water Supply

Issue: Tailings dam at former Gullbridge Copper Mine breached on December 17, 2012 and spilled water and tailings into the natural drainage area supplying the Town of South Brook with drinking water. This note is for information purposes.

Background and Current Status:
- On December 17, 2012 the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported that the Gullbridge Mine dam had breached at 07:00AM on December 17th. DNR had a contractor at the dam site undertaking rehabilitation work on the dam prior to the breach. The rehabilitation work included the replacement of bog material with rock along the base of the dam.
- Permit ALT6697 was issued under Section 48 of the Water Resources Act to DNR for the dam rehabilitation work (see attachment).
- The breach occurred on the southern end of the dam as shown in Figure 1 (attached). Pictures #1 and 2 taken during the breach show that a 50m section of the dam to the full dam height (approximately 5m) had eroded away and that water and some tailings continue to spill from the tailings area onto a bog area.
- The dam breach is located approximately 0.5km from South Brook River. Approximately 19km downstream of the breach site is Kona Beach Campground, and 26km downstream of the breach site is the water supply intake for the Town of South Brook (see figure #2). The estimated travel time from the breach site to the water supply intake is 6 hours. This is conservative and does not include dispersion and any detention time at South Pond.

Action Being Taken:
- Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) has contacted the Department of Health and Community Services and the Town of South Brook to inform them of the incident. The Medical Officer of Health for the area has issued a precautionary non-consumption order.
- WRMD has sent two staff from its Grand Falls-Windsor office to start monitoring water quality along South Brook.

Prepared / Approved by: C. McLean, H. Khan / M. Goebel, ADM, Bill Parrott, DM
Approved by: 
December 17, 2012
Figure #1: Approximate location of dam breach.
Picture #1: Dam breach

Picture #2: Dam breach
Figure #2: Location map showing Town of South Brook Water Supply
Dam Failure at Former Gullbridge Mine Site

Key Messages

- On December 17, a major failure of the tailings dam at the former Gullbridge mine site occurred. The area of failure is approximately 50 metres wide and the full height of the dam.

- The main water supply for the Town of South Brook is located 20 kilometres downstream from the former Gullbridge dam, and a Class III scheduled salmon river is also in the area.

- A non-consumption water advisory has been issued for the Town of South Brook which means residents should not drink the water or use it for cooking; washing food; brushing teeth; or making juices, baby formulas and ice. Household use such as washing clothes, washing dishes, bathing and handwashing are safe.

- Officials are currently on site to conduct water sampling and evaluate the situation regarding long-term repair possibilities. Water sampling will be conducted on an ongoing basis, and an update will be provided as more information becomes available.

- The tailings dam and mining site are related to the Gullbridge mine that closed in 1971.

- The Provincial Government has the responsibility for rehabilitation and maintenance as the former operators abandoned the site.
• Orphaned and abandoned mines are mine properties for which an owner cannot be identified, or whose owner is unable or unwilling to carry out the necessary rehabilitation work. These would include mine properties which were returned to the Crown during times when environmental legislation was less stringent.

• A tailings dam is a structure created to store tailings, a waste product of mining. Tailings are what is left after the ore is processed at the mine site to concentrate the mineral of interest. They generally contain other metals that might be harmful to the environment. To isolate them from the air where they can react, they are best stored under water. A dam creates a basin in which the tailings are collected, and then water accumulates to cover them.

• Gullbridge mined copper and closed in 1971 likely because of low prices. Copper was contained in sulphide ore so the tailings produced are mostly pyrite - iron sulphide, there is other material as well with copper being the most significant metal.

• The dam is 15 m high at its high point. Until we get a more detailed inspection, we will not know how much of the tailings have escaped and where they have gone. We know the water covering them has all drained out.

• Once a detailed inspection of the site is complete, a cleanup plan will be prepared. We also have to ensure the site is safe for workers.
PERMIT TO ALTER A BODY OF WATER

Pursuant to the Water Resources Act, SNL 2002 cW-4.01, Section(s) 48

Date: NOVEMBER 01, 2012

File No: 525

Proponent: Department of Natural Resources (St. John's)
50 Elizabeth Avenue
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's NL A1B 1P9

Permit No: ALT6697-2012

Attention: Len Mandville

Re: Former Gullbridge Mine (Gullbridge Tailings Pond) - Dam Rehabilitation

Permission is hereby given for: repairs to the existing tailings dam at the Gullbridge Tailings Pond as required for the Gullbridge Mine Dam Rehabilitation Project, with reference to the application dated October 10, 2012.

- This permit does not release the proponent from the obligation to obtain appropriate approvals from other concerned provincial, federal and municipal agencies.

- The proponent must obtain the approval of the Crown Lands Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation if the project is being carried out on Crown Land.

- This permit is subject to the terms and conditions indicated in Appendix A (attached).

- It should be noted that prior to any significant changes in the design or installation of the proposed works, or in event of changes in ownership or management of the project, an amendment to this permit must be obtained from the Department of Environment and Conservation under Section 49 of the Water Resources Act.

- Failure to comply with the terms and conditions will render this permit null and void, place the proponent and their agent(s) in violation of the Water Resources Act and make the proponent responsible for taking any remedial measures as may be prescribed by this Department.

MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
Department of Environment and Conservation  

APPENDIX A  
Terms and Conditions for Environmental Permit  

Former Gullbridge Mine (Gullbridge Tailings Pond) - Dam Rehabilitation  

Special Conditions  
1. The work approved under this permit includes:  
   a. Removal of unsuitable material (USM) and bog material along toe of the dam.  
   b. Replacement of existing culverts with two (2) 1200 mm diameter culverts and a concrete spillway.  
   c. Raise the crest of the dam to provide adequate freeboard and storage.  
   d. Placement of rock fill and rip rap on upstream and downstream embankments to improve dam stability.  

2. All unsuitable material (USM) and bog material resulting from this project must be stockpiled within the Gullbridge Tailings Pond.  

Dam/Reservoir Design  
3. Reservoirs must be provided with a spillway of adequate capacity to safely discharge design flows at non-erosive velocities without causing flooding of the reservoir or damage to the spillway or downstream channel.  

Dam Construction  
4. Fill material must be obtained from an approved quarry site. It must not be taken from beaches or streams, and must not be dredged from a body of water.  

5. The transportation of labour and materials to the site must be along existing access roads.  

6. The dam and spillway must be inspected regularly to identify any indications of structural failure, leaking, erosion or other problem so that immediate action can be taken to rectify the problem.  

7. The work must meet the requirements of the 2012 Dam Safety Review completed by Stantec.  

Dam Safety  
8. The dam has been conditionally classified in the SIGNIFICANT Consequence category based on the 2007 Canadian Dam Association (CDA) guidelines. To meet the CDA's Dam Safety guidelines (Current Edition) for dams of this classification, the owner must:  
   * Carry out a Dam Safety Review and submit a Dam Safety Report to this Department a maximum of every ten years,  
   * Carry out further dam and spillway inspections at the intervals recommended in the Dam Safety Review to identify any indications of structural failure, leaking, erosion or other problem so that immediate action can be taken to rectify the problem,  
   * Carry out dam operation, maintenance and surveillance operations in accordance with the recommendations of the Dam Safety Review so that an acceptable level of the dam safety is ensured.  

Culvert Installation  
9. Culverts must be inspected regularly so that immediate action can be taken to clear blockages caused by ice or debris or to undertake repairs as required.  

10. Any damage to culverts during installation or due to inadequate capacity and/or improper construction must be reported to this Department. Damaged culverts must be replaced immediately to prevent overtopping, erosion, or flooding.  

General Alterations  
11. Any work that must be performed below the high water mark must be carried out during a period of low water levels.  

12. Any flowing or standing water must be diverted around work sites so that work is carried out in the dry.
13. Water pumped from excavations or work areas, or any runoff or effluent directed out of work sites, must have silt and turbidity removed by settling ponds, filtration, or other suitable treatment before discharging to a body of water. Effluent discharged into receiving waters must comply with the Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003.

14. All operations must be carried out in a manner that prevents damage to land, vegetation, and watercourses, and which prevents pollution of bodies of water.

15. The use of heavy equipment in streams or bodies of water is not permitted. The operation of heavy equipment must be confined to dry stable areas.

16. All vehicles and equipment must be clean and in good repair, free of mud and oil, or other harmful substances that could impair water quality.

17. Any areas adversely affected by this project must be restored to a state that resembles local natural conditions. Further remedial measures to mitigate environmental impacts on water resources can and will be specified, if considered necessary in the opinion of the Department.

18. The bed, banks and floodplains of watercourses, or other vulnerable areas affected by this project, must be adequately protected from erosion by seeding, sodding or placing of rip-rap.

19. All waste materials resulting from this project must be disposed of at a site approved by the Department of Service NL.

20. Periodic maintenance such as painting, resurfacing, clearing of debris, or minor repairs, must be carried out without causing any physical disruption of any watercourse. Care must be taken to prevent spillage of pollutants into the water.

21. The owners of structures are responsible for any environmental damage resulting from dislodgement caused by wind, wave, ice action, or structural failure.

22. Sediment and erosion control measures must be installed before starting work. All control measures must be inspected regularly and any necessary repairs made if damage is discovered.

23. Fill material must be of good quality, free of fines or other substances including metals, organics, or chemicals that may be harmful to the receiving waters.

24. The attached Completion Report (Appendix B) for Permit No. 6697 must be completed and returned to this Department upon completion of the approved works.

25. This Permit is valid for two years from the date of issue. Work must be completed by that date or the application and approval procedure must be repeated.

26. The location of the work is highlighted on the Location Map for this Permit attached as Appendix C.

27. Pictures must be submitted along with the completion report, showing the project site prior to and after development.
cc: File Copy for Binder

cc: Mr. Clyde McLean, P. Eng.
Manager, Water Investigations Section
Water Resources Management Division
Department of Environment and Conservation

cc: Mr. Leon W. King (C)
Area Habitat Biologist - Central
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
4A Bayley Street, Suite 200
Grand Falls-Windsor NL A2A 2T5

cc: Ms. Michelle Roberge
Section Head, Habitat Planning and Operations
Marine Environment and Habitat Management Division
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
PO Box 5667
St. John’s NL A1C 5X1
Appendix B - Completion Report

Pursuant to the Water Resources Act, SNL 2002 cW-4.01, Section(s) 48

Date: NOVEMBER 01, 2012

Proponent: Department of Natural Resources (St. John's)
50 Elizabeth Avenue
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's NL A1B 1P9

Attention: Len Mandville

Re: Former Gullbridge Mine (Gullbridge Tailings Pond) - Dam Rehabilitation

Permission was given for: repairs to the existing tailings dam at the Gullbridge Tailings Pond as required for the Gullbridge Mine Dam Rehabilitation Project, with reference to the application dated October 10, 2012.

I (the proponent named above or agent authorized to represent the proponent) do hereby certify that the project described above was completed in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted to the Department of Environment and Conservation and that the work was carried out in strict compliance with the terms and conditions of the Permit issued for this project.

Date: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

This completion report must be completed and forwarded to the following address upon completion of the approved work.

Department of Environment and Conservation
Water Resources Management Division
PO Box 8700
St. John's NL A1B 4J6
GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Department of Environment and Conservation

APPENDIX C
Location Map for Environmental Permit
Minister:
This is to confirm that OH&S has asked NR for an incident report. NR is preparing a report in conjunction with the contractor on site.
Regards, Martin

-----Original Message-----
From: Liverman, Dave
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 1:25 PM
To: Goebel, Martin
Subject: Re: Update

That should be fine.
Dave

On 12/18/12 1:22 PM, "Goebel, Martin" <mgoebel@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

> Thanks David:
> We may need to advise Minister Hederson simply that this is a task in
> progress but the key thing is that OH&S is also involved.
> 
> Regards, Martin
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Liverman, Dave
> Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 1:20 PM
> To: Goebel, Martin
> Cc: Khan, Haseen; Coffey, Tina; Smith, Alex O.
> Subject: Re: Update
>
> My understanding is that is currently being prepared in consultation
> with the contractor on site; we do not have a copy at this point.
>
> Dave
>
> > On 12/18/12 1:15 PM, "Goebel, Martin" <mgoebel@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
> >
> >> Thank you David.
> >> You mentioned yesterday evening that you were asked by OH&S for a
> >> preliminary incident report. Could you share a copy of that report
> >> with us please.
> >> Regards, Martin
> >>
> >>
> >> -----Original Message-----
> >> From: Liverman, Dave
> >> Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 12:25 PM

1
To: Goebel, Martin
Cc: Maclean, Heather; Williams, Tina; Smith, Alex O.
Subject: Re: Update

The breach was caused because the dam was originally poorly constructed—well below modern standards—and has deteriorated with time. The dam safety review identified that repairs were needed to ensure its continued integrity. It seems likely however that the construction activity associated with the work approved to stabilise the dam was the trigger that caused the dam to fail at this time, although no specific activity can be associated with the failure at this point.

It might be noted that having the repairs underway enabled a quick response and the ability to ensure drinking water precautions were taken. If it had failed at a time when no activity was taking place, the breach might not have been noticed for some time.

Dave

---

On 12/18/12 12:10 PM, "Goebel, Martin" <mgoebel@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Thanks David

We are briefing Minister for House. We need a clear statement to say what caused this breach. Thanks

Regards, Martin
ADM Environment
sent via Blackberry Bold 9900

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Liverman, Dave
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 12:02 PM
To: Goebel, Martin
Subject: Update

Heard that it seems as though tailings likely did not reach the river

in any great quantity, which is very good news. Will be able to confirm later today.

Dave
Vokey, Sharon

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Vokey, Sharon; Hederson, Tom; Parrott, William
Cc: O'Neill, Melony
Subject: FW: South Brook Update
Minister, FYI

Here is the summary of activities as of this afternoon.

- On December 17, 2012 the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported that the Gullbridge Mine dam had breached at 07:00AM on December 17th. DNR had a contractor at the dam site undertaking rehabilitation work on the dam prior to the breach. The rehabilitation work included the replacement of bog material with rock along the base of the dam.

- The dam breach is located approximately 0.5km from South Brook River. Approximately 19km downstream of the breach site is Kona Beach Campground, and 26km downstream of the breach site is the water supply intake for the Town of South Brock (see figure #2). The estimated travel time from the breach site to the water supply intake is 6 hours. This is conservative and does not include dispersion and any detention time at South Pond.

- On December 17th at 01:30PM, ADM Environment called a meeting to review the incident and determine path forward. The meeting was attended by ENVC (Martin and Haseen), Natural Resources (Dave and Alex), Service NL (Donna and Rick), Municipal Affairs (Randy and Paul) and Health and Community Services (Faith, Colleen and Darryl). It was decided that ENVC will look after drinking water quality monitoring; NR into the incident and its impact on the surrounding environment; MA into alternate source of drinking water to the community; and HCS into public health aspects. All parties will continue to communicate and share information on regular basis.

- Two staff members from ENVC visited the area on December 17th and collected water samples and took field measurements using microsond for basic water quality parameters (Ph, temperature, conductivity, total dissolved solids and dissolved oxygen) from tailings facility; South Brook at 10km from the breach site; and the water supply intake. Field measurements indicated normal readings at all locations with the exception of the tailings facility.

- Today again two staff members from ENVC are visiting the site and will take field measurements and collect water samples to assess any change in the water quality.

- Water has stopped flowing from tailings facility based on photos provided this morning by the staff of Natural Resources who are at the site. Natural Resources staff members are undertaking ground survey to assess the dispersion of tailings.

- No consumption advisory was issued by the Medical Officer of Health on December 17th and remains in place. ENVC also issued a public advisory on the incident.

1/7/2013
- The Town of South Brook purchased water from True North which is being distributed by volunteers. The Town has been informed to be in touch with Municipal Affairs to ensure the continuous supply of water.

- Annette Tobin of ENVC spoke to the Mayor this morning and updated him about the situation.

- According to NR consultants (Stantec and Hatch MacDonald) are in the area to assess the impact of the breach and required corrective measures.

- Clyde McLean of ENVC will travel to the area tomorrow and will be joined by staff from NR and ENVC to fly over the area in order to undertake aerial survey of the area

Haseen
From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 3:57 PM
To: Hedderson, Tom; Vokey, Sharon
Cc: O'Neill, Melony; Parrott, William

Subject: FW: FW: CBC Radio Interview tomorrow morning at 8:10am - South Brook

Minister

You are scheduled for an interview tomorrow morning at 8:10am with CBC Radio. You can make contact with [redacted] at [redacted] at 8:10am if you are available. If you are unable, you can send me an email and I will let CBC know.

I have key messages/material left on your desk for your review.

If you need anything further, you can reach me on my cell at 728-8650.

Thanks
Tina
Vokey, Sharon

From: Parrott, William  
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 9:54 PM  
To: Hedderson, Tom  
Subject: From NR Gullbridge Media  

Minister

FYI

Bill
Department of Environment and Conservation  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
P.O.Box 8700  
St.John's, NL  
Canada  
A1B 4J6

From: Goebel, Martin  
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 06:58 PM  
To: Parrott, William  
Cc: O'Neil, Melony; Khan, Haseen  
Subject: FW: Gullbridge Media

FYI

Martin Goebel, P.Eng  
ADM - Environment  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
4th Floor Confederation Bldg W  
PO Box 8700  
St. John's NL. A1B 4J6  
tel: (709) 729-2550  
fax: (709) 729-7413  
email: MGoebel@gov.nl.ca

From: Liverman, Dave  
Sent: Tue 12/18/2012 6:21 PM  
To: Goebel, Martin  
Subject: FW: Gullbridge Media

----- Forwarded Message
From: "Smith, Alex O." <asmith@gov.nl.ca>  
Date: Tue, 18 Dec 2012 17:00:40 -0330  
To: David Liverman <dliverman@gov.nl.ca>  
Cc: "Maclean, Heather" <heathermaclean@gov.nl.ca>, "Smith, Alex O." <asmith@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: Gullbridge Media

Dave,

Just to let you know that the access road to the Gullbridge site has been blocked by a grader. Marine Contractors are only allowing authorized people

1/7/2013
on-site. We understand that the Telegram and NTV tried to get access to the site. They were told that it is a work site and only authorized personnel are permitted access.

Probably something we should discuss tomorrow.

Alex Smith
Director, Mineral Development

----- End of Forwarded Message
Vokey, Sharon

From: Parrott, William  
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 11:22 PM  
To: Hedderson, Tom  
Subject: Fw: South Brook Update  
Importance: High  
Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Red  
Attachments: Gullbridge Tailing Area Sampling Sites.jpg  
Minister

FYI- here is the note with the full technical details.

We'll summarize the water sampling points into a couple of speaking points.

Good luck in the House.

We'll be in by 7:30 am

Bill
Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
Canada
A1B 4J6

From: Goebel, Martin  
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 11:10 PM  
To: Parrott, William  
Cc: Liverman, Dave; Khan, Haseen  
Subject: FW: South Brook Update

Haseen:
Thanks for the detailed information. I note that there are some information points that have changed, such as the size of the breach. Obviously we are getting more concise information now that personnel are on-site. I assume we are getting measurements rather than visual estimates. We may need to summarize some of this for Minister Hedderson, especially the part about today's water quality testing.

Martin Goebel, P.Eng
ADM - Environment
Department of Environment and Conservation

From: Khan, Haseen  
Sent: Tue 12/18/2012 10:41 PM  
To: Goebel, Martin  
Subject: South Brook Update

Martin;

South Brook update is as follows. This update is based on our conversation with Mayor
Mills, input from our field staff at 10:20 PM and input from Natural Resources at 08:24 PM. Please feel free to edit as appropriate.

**Title:** Failure of the Tailings dam at the former Gullbridge Mine site.

**Issue:** Current status and path forward to ensure drinking water safety and corrective measures in the area of Gullbridge tailings dam breach.

**Background and Current Status:**
- A major breach of the tailings dam at the former Gullbridge copper mine site occurred on December 17th at 07:00 AM. The dam breach happened while repairs to the dam were underway. The area of failure is measured as approximately 25 metres wide and 7 metres high, the full height of the dam.

- Tailings are believed to be frozen as well as consolidated and are resisting erosion. This may change when the temperature rises.

- No one was injured during this event although it was a near miss. Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) were contacted and they have issued a stop work order. OHS has decided not to go to site. They have directed NR to submit an incident report.

- The dam repair included excavation of the bog at the toe of the dam and construction of a toe berm to provide support for the dam. The dam breach occurred while a portion of bog was being excavated. The most likely cause of the dam breach is poor dam construction practices during 1960’s and lack of proper dam maintenance.

- Approximately 400 metres of bog lies between the Gullbridge dam and South Brook. South Brook is a Class III scheduled Salmon River and the source of drinking water for the Town of South Brook. The water supply intake is about 26 Km downstream of the breach site.

- In order to ensure the safety of the residents of the Town of South Brook against any potential contamination of South Brook, Medical Officer of Health issued precautionary no-consumption advisory on December 17th.

- A meeting was held with representatives of Environment & Conservation (ENVC), Natural Resources (NR), Health & Community Services (HCS), Service NL and Emergency Services to discuss the impact of the breach and path forward.

- Representatives from ENVC and NR have been in the area since December 17th. ENVC representatives are collecting daily water samples for testing and taking daily field measurements at critical locations along South Brook. Based on the inspection of the area between the dam and South Brook by NR representatives, there are indications that tailings were carried to the river, but in limited quantities. There are a number of natural settling areas along the flow path where the tailings settled out.

- NR has reported the spill to the appropriate federal and provincial agencies. Federal Environment employees have been to the site to take samples. DFO has been provided a verbal update.

- ENVC representatives have been in touch with the Town of South Brook on daily basis and
are keeping the town fully informed about the situation.

- The first set of drinking water quality results are expected on December 24th. These will be communicated to the Town and posted on the ENVC web site.

- Two representatives of ENVC visited the area on December 17th and collected water samples and took field measurements using microsond for basic water quality parameters (pH, temperature, conductivity, total dissolved solids and dissolved oxygen) from tailings facility; South Brook at 10km from the breach site; and the water supply intake. Field measurements indicated normal readings at all locations with the exception of the tailings facility.

- Below is a table summarizing the results from December 18th field work undertaken by ENVC representatives?

### South Brook InSitu Water Quality

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Site 1</th>
<th>Site 2</th>
<th>Site 5</th>
<th>Site 6</th>
<th>Site 7</th>
<th>Site 8</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intake</td>
<td>Below confluence of South Brook and Gull Pond brook</td>
<td>8 m below breach in Dam</td>
<td>South Brook Upstream of Inflow of Effluent</td>
<td>South Brook Downstream of Inflow of Effluent</td>
<td>Effluent before South Brook</td>
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<td>7.38</td>
<td>7.52</td>
<td>6.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Conductivity (uS/cm)</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>284.1</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>346.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDS (g/L)</td>
<td>0.0154</td>
<td>0.0176</td>
<td>0.1821</td>
<td>0.0139</td>
<td>0.0219</td>
<td>0.2211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissolved Oxygen (%)</td>
<td>97.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>82.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)</td>
<td>12.85</td>
<td>14.65</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>13.10</td>
<td>13.25</td>
<td>11.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity (NTU)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>199.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Synopsis**

- Site 1 @ Water Supply Intake looks good. No Change since yesterday. Measured water velocity was at 1.07 meters/second.

- Site 2 - Above South Pond, below confluence of South Brook and Gull Pond Brook. pH was essentially the same as yesterday. Conductivity was slightly higher, nothing significant.
Turbidity is much higher at 6.6 NTU. Yesterday it was 0.0. This may indicate that the slug of water released from the tailings dam yesterday is moving or has moved through this point. Measured water velocity at 1.05 m/s.

Site 5 - 8 m Below Dam breach. Typical Tailings water. pH 5.02. Yesterday we measured tailings water on the opposite side of the impoundment area at 4.22. Specific Conductance is high at 284 uS/cm. Turbidity is really bad at 199.5 NTU.

Site 8 - Effluent right before it entered South Brook. Much better than right below the dam Breach. pH 6.86 is near normal. Specific Conductivity 346uS/cm is a bit higher than near the dam. Turbidity is dropped of to 8.6 NTU.

Site 6 - South Brook Upstream of the Input of the Effluent. Near Pristine. Water Quality is ideal. However, there was some evidence of some fresh sediment on the stream bed.

Site 7 - South Brook Downstream of Input of Effluent - WQ not too bad. pH was higher than expected at 7.52. Specific Conductivity was a little high at 34.4 uS/cm. Turbidity was down to 2.9 NTU. Dilution effect is evident.

Water velocity could not be measured in South Brook at this point because the stream was partially frozen and unsafe to work on.

Access to South Brook below the Dam Breach was quite difficult. Partially frozen ground (bog), massive chunks of ice and an abundance of tailing made travel on foot very challenging. Unsafe ice conditions do not warrant repeated sampling of South Brook in this area. As the tailings dry out, there is an abundance of dust and mud on the trees and vegetation. ENVC representatives were quite dirty and found their eyes burning.

Drinking water samples were collected at Sites 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7. They are off to the lab tomorrow am.

ENVC representatives will sample sites 1 and 2 on December 19th early in the day and get the samples on the courier before end of day. insitu result of December 19th testing will be communicated to us if there is cell coverage in the area and if there is something noteworthy.

- As per ENVC representative’s conversation with the Mayor on December 18th at 05:30 PM, the Town had a Council meeting this afternoon where it was decided that they would order another shipment of water tomorrow and arrange to rent a truck where they could store & distribute the water to its residents. This truck would remain outside the Town Office and the people responsible for distributing the water would be able to stay in the Town Office.

- The access road to the Gullbridge site has been blocked by a grader and Marine Contractors are only allowing authorized people to the site. We understand that the Telegram and NTV tried to get access to the site. They were told that it is a work site and only authorized personnel are permitted access.

Action Being Taken:
- Representatives from ENVC, NR, consultants Stantec (who prepared the dam safety review
and designed repairs) and Hatch Mott MacDonald (NR's on-site representative for construction inspection) are visiting the site on a daily basis. ENVC officials will continue to monitor drinking water quality on a daily basis. NR and its consultants will be looking into mitigative measures and long term repair possibilities.

- On December 19th representatives of ENVC and NR will fly over the area to take aerial photos of the tailings facility, dam breach site, bog, and South Brook, and to assess the current status and determine path forward. ENVC will prepare a report on aerial field inspection.

Key Messages:
- Our immediate priority is to ensure the continuous supply of safe drinking water to the residents of the Town of South Brook and protect them against any potential contamination associated with the dam breach incident.
- South Brook's water quality is being monitored on a daily basis to assess if the release of tailings due to the dam breach is causing any impact to the water quality.
- We acknowledge the unfortunate incident of a dam breach and release of tailings into the natural environment. We are working hard to assess the extent of dam breach damage and to identify appropriate short-term and long-term corrective and maintenance measures.
- Five government departments (ENVC, NR, HCS, MA, and Service NL) are involved to deal with the after effects of the dam breach incident and to carry out any required corrective measures.

Haseen Khan, P.Eng.
Director
Water Resources Management Division
Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
PO Box 8700
Confederation Building, West Block 4th Floor
St. John's NL A1B 4J6 Canada
Telephone (709) 729-2563
Fax (709) 729-0320
E-Mail hkhkan@gov.nl.ca
Web Page www.gov.nl.ca/env
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Vokey, Sharon

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 1:59 PM
To: Parrott, William; Hederson, Tom; Vokey, Sharon; Goebel, Martin
Subject: Questions from the telegram re: southbrook

Bill, Minister

The following response were provided by both departments ENVC and NR.
For your approval to forward to [redacted] with The Telegram.

Was the Department of Environment aware of any potential loss of tailings from the Gullbridge dam prior to the start of the current repair work (ie. Was there report of leaching from the tailings impoundment or smaller cracks/breaks in the dam)? No, the Department of Environment and Conservation was not aware of any loss of tailings or leaching prior to the dam breach incident.

There has been no evidence of continuous or periodic escape of tailings from the impoundment. Government started a project in 2009 to evaluate stability of tailings dams at former orphaned and abandoned mine sites in the province. A dam safety inspection of the dams at the former Gullbridge, Whalesback and Rambler mine sites was completed in 2010-11. The report indicated that repairs to the dams would be required and the full extent of repairs should be determined following a more detailed review of their stability. A dam safety review that included intrusive testing of the dam structure, slope stability analysis and hydrotechnical and hydrological assessment of the dams was approved in Budget 2011 and awarded to Stantec Consulting Limited. This review identified that repairs were needed at these three sites with Gullbridge identified as highest priority. In August 2012, a public tender was issued for construction pertaining to tailings dam repairs at the former Gullbridge mine site. Approval for the repairs was issued under Section 48 of the Water Resources Act on November 1, 2012.

Has the department conducted any testing of the town water supply, specifically checking for metals/contamination, in the years prior to the current incident? Yes, the. Town’s water supply is monitored on regular basis and all drinking water quality data is available online at the following link. http://maps.gov.nl.ca/water/reports/viewreport.aspx?COMMUNITY_NAME=South%20Brook

The water meets all the “Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality” and is generally classified as excellent.

Who was the contractor performing the construction work at the time of the dam breach? Marine Contractors

I’m looking to get a copy of the last major study of the mine/dam site prior to the start of construction.

The Department of Natural Resources is reviewing the report and will be in touch concerning providing a copy.

Also looking for any updates you might have later today on the response to the current situation.

Samples taken at the water supply have yet to show any contamination. Samples are also being sent to a lab outside of the province, and the first result is expected on December 24.

The Telegram
709-364-2323 ×[redacted]

Department of Environment and Conservation Government of Newfoundland and Labrador P.O.Box 8700 St.John's, NL Canada A1B 4J6
Vokey, Sharon

From: Parrott, William
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 4:42 PM
To: Hedderson, Tom; Vokey, Sharon
Subject: FW: Dam break- Response to the Telegram

FYI

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 4:36 PM
To: Parrott, William; Goebel, Martin; Vokey, Sharon; Khan, Haseen
Subject: FW: Dam break- Response to the Telegram

FYI...The Telegram is appreciative.
Thanks for your support.
Tina

From: [mailto: @thetelegram.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 4:34 PM
To: Coffey, Tina
Subject: Re: Dam break- Response to the Telegram

Thanks for this Tina.
Lots here. Really appreciate all the work on this.

From: "Coffey, Tina" <tcoffey@gov.nl.ca>
Date: Wed, 19 Dec 2012 16:27:49 -0330
To: @thetelegram.com
Subject: RE: Dam break- Response to the Telegram

Hi
See prepared response below. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me.

Thanks
Tina

Was the Department of Environment aware of any potential loss of tailings from the Gullbridge dam prior to the start of the current repair work (i.e. Was there report of leeching from the tailings impoundment or smaller cracks/breaks in the dam)?
No, years of water quality testing has not indicated the presence of any materials or other contaminants from watershed.

There has been no evidence of continuous or periodic escape of tailings from the impoundment. Government started a project in 2009 to evaluate stability of tailings dams at former orphaned and abandoned mine sites in the province. A dam safety inspection of the dam at the former Gullbridge mine was completed in 2010-11. The dam was found to require the full extent of repairs following a more
detailed review of its stability. A dam safety review that included intrusive testing of the dam structure, slope stability analysis and hydrotechnical and hydrological assessment of the dams was approved in Budget 2011 and awarded to Stantec Consulting Limited. This review identified that repairs were needed on a priority basis. In August 2012, a public tender was issued for construction pertaining to tailings dam repairs at the former Gullbridge mine site.

Has the department conducted any testing of the town water supply, specifically checking for metals/contamination, in the years prior to the current incident? Yes, the Town’s water supply is monitored on regular basis and all drinking water quality data is available online at the following link.


The water meets all the “Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality” and is generally classified as excellent.

Who was the contractor performing the construction work at the time of the dam breach? Marine Contractors

I’m looking to get a copy of the last major study of the mine/dam site prior to the start of construction.

The Department of Natural Resources is reviewing the report and will be in touch concerning providing a copy.

Also looking for any updates you might have later today on the response to the current situation.

Samples taken from today’s field water quality monitoring show that the Town’s drinking water quality is not impacted with the Gullbridge dam incident. Samples are also being sent to a lab outside of the province, and the first result is expected on December 24.

From: [mailto:blank@thetelegram.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Coffey, Tina; O'Neill, Melony
Cc: Maclean, Heather
Subject: Dam break-

Morning to all.
Looking for response on the following:

1. Was the Department of Environment aware of any potential loss of tailings from the Gullbridge dam prior to the start of the current repair work (ie. Was there report of leaching from the tailings impoundment or smaller cracks/breaks in the dam)?
2. Has the department conducted any testing of the town water supply, specifically checking for metals/contamination, in the years prior to the current incident?
3. Who was the contractor performing the construction work at the time of the dam breach?
4. (This might be for Natural Resources?) I’m looking to get a copy of the last major study of the mine/dam site prior to the start of
construction.
Also looking for any updates you might have later today on the response to the current situation.

The Telegram
709-364-2323

"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."
Vokey, Sharon

From: O'Neill, Melony
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:02 PM
To: Parrott, William; Hederson, Tom; Vokey, Sharon; Goebel, Martin
Subject: Fw: CBC - Environmental disaster feared in South Brook

Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O.Box 8700
St.John's, NL
Canada
A1B 4J6

From: Clarke, Lesley
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 11:57 AM
To: O'Neill, Melony; Coffey, Tina; Tulk, Jennifer; Medd, Blair; Pike, Robyn; Maclean, Heather; Williams, Tina; Lawlor, Lisa E
Cc: Drover, Rodney C; FitzGerald, John; Harvey, Michael; Walsh, Doris A.
Subject: CBC - Environmental disaster feared in South Brook

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Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Vokey, Sharon

From: Parrott, William
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Hedderson, Tom
Subject: Fw: Question Period today

Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O.Box 8700
St.John's, NL
Canada
A1B 4J6

From: Khan, Haseen
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 01:07 PM
To: Coffey, Tina; Vokey, Sharon; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William
Subject: RE: Question Period today

ENVC staff as a part of our daily update spoke to the Mayor and explained all the water quality data we have collected during field measurements. Mayor was satisfied with our explanation.

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 1:05 PM
To: Vokey, Sharon; Khan, Haseen; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William
Subject: RE: Question Period today

If you have any further update for the Minister, let me know asap.
Thanks
Tina

From: Vokey, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 1:05 PM
To: Coffey, Tina; Khan, Haseen; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William
Subject: RE: Question Period today

QP will be at 1:30pm, I’m waiting to hear back from the Minister about dropping over

Sharon Vokey
Executive Assistant to
Minister Hedderson
Department of Environment & Conservation
Phone: (709) 729-4111
Fax: (709) 729-0112
sharonvokey@gov.nl.ca

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:48 PM
To: Vokey, Sharon; Khan, Haseen; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William
Subject: RE: Question Period today

10th floor advised.
Tina

From: Vokey, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:47 PM
To: Coffey, Tina; Khan, Haseen; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William
Subject: RE: Question Period today

Who advised there would be a QP? It is still Tuesday in the House, no QP

Sharon Vokey
Executive Assistant to
Minister Hedderson
Department of Environment & Conservation
Phone: (709) 729-4111
Fax: (709) 729-0112
sharonvokey@gov.nl.ca

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Khan, Haseen; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William
Cc: Vokey, Sharon
Subject: Question Period today

Haseen. Martin
There is Question Period today. Do we have any further (South Brook) update at this time to pass along to the Minister before question period?
Tina
Vokey, Sharon

From: Parrott, William
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Hedderson, Tom
Subject: Fw: Question Period today

Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O.Box 8700
St.John's, NL
Canada
A1B 4J6

From: Khan, Haseen
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 01:05 PM
To: Vokey, Sharon; Coffey, Tina; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William
Subject: RE: Question Period today

Today Clyde McLean of ENVC along with Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Town of South Brook flew along the South Brook and tailings facility in a helicopter. There was no sign of any plum or discoloration of Water in South Brook and South Pond. ENVC representatives are in the filed to take field measurements and collect water samples.

Haseen

From: Vokey, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:48 PM
To: Vokey, Sharon; Coffey, Tina; Khan, Haseen; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William
Subject: RE: Question Period today

Ignore the last email...I'm reading my emails backwards®

Sharon Vokey
Executive Assistant to
Minister Hedderson
Department of Environment & Conservation
Phone: (709) 729-4111
Fax: (709) 729-0112
sharonvokey@gov.nl.ca

From: Vokey, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:47 PM
To: Coffey, Tina; Khan, Haseen; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William
Subject: RE: Question Period today

Who advised there would be a QP? It is still Tuesday in the House, no QP

Sharon Vokey
Executive Assistant to

1/7/2013
From: Coffey, Tina  
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:45 PM 
To: Khan, Haseen; Goebel, Martin; Parrott, William  
Cc: Vokey, Sharon  
Subject: Question Period today  

Haseen. Martin  
There is Question Period today. Do we have any further (South Brook) update at this time to pass along to the Minister before question period?  
Tina
Vokey, Sharon

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Goebel, Martin; Holloway, Rob; Tobin, Annette; Khan, Haseen; Khan, Ali; Vokey, Sharon; Heddder, Tom; Parrott, William
Cc: Courage, Angela
Subject: Re: High Priority Update to Dept of Env and Conv - Water Resources Management Division Web Site - South Brook Watershed Monitoring webpage information

Webpage will be live shortly.
Tina
Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O.Box 8700
St.John's, NL
Canada
A1B 4J6

From: Goebel, Martin
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 04:37 PM
To: Coffey, Tina; Holloway, Rob; Tobin, Annette; Khan, Haseen; Khan, Ali
Cc: Courage, Angela
Subject: RE: High Priority Update to Dept of Env and Conv - Water Resources Management Division Web Site - South Brook Watershed Monitoring

As soon as possible.

Regards, Martin

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 4:30 PM
To: Goebel, Martin; Holloway, Rob; Tobin, Annette; Khan, Haseen; Khan, Ali
Cc: Courage, Angela
Subject: Re: High Priority Update to Dept of Env and Conv - Water Resources Management Division Web Site - South Brook Watershed Monitoring

Martin
When would you like for it to go live?
Tina
Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O.Box 8700
St.John's, NL
Canada
A1B 4J6

From: Goebel, Martin
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 04:28 PM
To: Coffey, Tina; Holloway, Rob; Tobin, Annette; Khan, Haseen; Khan, Ali
Cc: Courage, Angela
Subject: RE: High Priority Update to Dept of Env and Conv - Water Resources Management Division
Web Site - South Brook Watershed Monitoring

This is fine. Great effort for the short amount of time available. I see the point about the linked page. Press on the down arrow and you will see all the available data for the Town of South Brook. Select “Source Water Nutrients and Metals” for example and then press “View Report”. Let’s add a line to say, “Press on the down arrow and you will see all the available water quality data for the Town of South Brook.” This page is a special issue and it does not fit the theme of the blue menu (IMHO). The linking button will suffice. In a few months we will put this into the archived area.

Regards, Martin

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 4:17 PM
To: Holloway, Rob; Tobin, Annette; Khan, Haseen; Goebel, Martin; Khan, Ali
Subject: Fw: High Priority Update to Dept of Env and Consv - Water Resources Management Division Web Site - South Brook Watershed Monitoring

Pls review. Rob, you can make contact with Curtis to discuss. Number below.
Thanks
Tina
Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O.Box 8700
St.John’s, NL
Canada
A1B 4J6

From: Baggs, Curtis
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 04:14 PM
To: Coffey, Tina
Subject: RE: High Priority Update to Dept of Env and Consv - Water Resources Management Division Web Site - South Brook Watershed Monitoring

Hi Tina,

Here’s a link to the web-page I’ve created for you on the ASDev server.


I’m not sure exactly what I’m supposed to do for the “Historical Drinking Water Quality Data” link. I created a link to the URL supplied, but there is nothing in that location.

I’ll need to be advised on what, if anything, you’d like done for the blue menu as well.

Phone me at 4608, if you’d prefer.

Curtis

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:58 PM
To: OCIO Service Desk; Bourdeau, Andrea; Baggs, Curtis; Courage, Angela  
Subject: FW: High Priority Update to Dept of Env and Consv - Water Resources Management Division Web Site - South Brook Watershed Monitoring

South Brook Watershed Monitoring webpage is below. Please update as required to ensure this request gets high priority. Once created, I will need access to review before it goes live. Thanks  
Tina

The following modifications are required to the Department of Environment and Conservation web page to provide information on water quality monitoring in the South Brook Public Water Supply watershed. This is a high priority request that involves important information with health and safety related concerns.

We will not have some of the information required for this page until Dec 24, 2012. We would like this page to be created as soon as possible and additional information can be linked when received.

On the following website page:

http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/index.html add a new hyperlink to the Features section called “Gullbridge Dam and Town of South Brook”. If a thumbnail picture is required the attached file dam breach dec 17.JPG can be used.

This hyperlink should not be added until the linked pages have been reviewed and approval is given to go live.

This hyperlink should link to a new page. This page should have a name similar to http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/waterres/southbrook/index.html

The layout of the page is outlined in the attached document Gullbridge Dam and Town of South Brook Webpage.doc

The hyperlinks outlined in the file Gullbridge Dam and Town of South Brook Webpage.doc should be linked as follows:

Hyperlink named “Gullbridge Dam” – should link to new page. Outline and content of this page is in attached document Gullbridge Dam Background Webpage.doc

Hyperlink named “Historical Drinking Water Quality Data” – appropriate hyperlink is http://maps.gov.nl.ca/water/reports/viewreport.aspx?COMMUNITY_NAME=South%20Brook


1/7/2013
Hyperlink named "Water Quality Monitoring Map" – should link to attached document
South_Brook_Samples_Map.pdf

Under the bullet "Water Quality Monitoring Data – Post Dam Failure"

Under bullet "Water Quality Monitoring Results at South Brook Public Water Supply Area Intake"
  Hyperlink named "Laboratory" - should link to file named Laboratory Water Quality Monitoring Results at South Brook Public Water Supply Area Intake.pdf. This file will be provided on Dec 24, 2012
  Hyperlink named "Field" – should link to attached file named Field Water Quality Monitoring Results at South Brook Public Water Supply Area Intake.pdf. This file will be updated on Dec 24, 2012.

Under bullet "Water Quality Monitoring Results at Confluence of South Brook and Gull Pond Brook"
  Hyperlink named "Laboratory" - should link to file named Laboratory Water Quality Monitoring Results at Confluence.pdf. This file will be provided on Dec 24, 2012
  Hyperlink named "Field" – should link to attached file named Field Water Quality Monitoring Results at Confluence.pdf. This file will be updated on Dec 24, 2012

Under bullet "Water Quality Monitoring Results near Gull Bridge Dam Area"
  Hyperlink named "Laboratory" - should link to file named Laboratory Water Quality Monitoring Results at Gulbridge.pdf. This file will be provided on Dec 24, 2012
  Hyperlink named "Field" – should link to attached file named Field Water Quality Monitoring Results at Gulbridge.pdf

Rob Holloway
Govt of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Environment and Conservation
Water Resources Management Division
Email: robholloway@mail.gov.nl.ca
Web: http://www.gov.nf.ca/env/water
Tel: (709) 729-5708

1/7/2013
Vokey, Sharon

From: Parrott, William  
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 9:37 AM  
To: Hedderson, Tom; Vokey, Sharon; O'Neill, Melony  
Subject: Gull briudge Dam Pics  
Attachments: IMG_3089.JPG; IMG_3092.JPG; IMG_3093.JPG; IMG_3100.JPG

Photos of the breach

---

From: Goebel, Martin  
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 3:09 PM  
To: Khan, Haseen  
Cc: Coffey, Tina; Parrott, William  
Subject: FW: Gull briudge Dam Pics

Haseen:
Please circulate to the SDW TWG right away. Thanks

Regards, Martin

---

From: Khan, Haseen  
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 2:43 PM  
To: Goebel, Martin  
Subject: FW: Gull briudge Dam Pics

Martin;

FYI

---

Section 30(1)

From: Paul Mills [mailto:paulolivemills@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 2:06 PM  
To: [redacted]; Tobin, Annette; Khan, Haseen  
Subject: Gull briidge Dam Pics

Sorry for the delay, but I now have approval to share my photos.

Paul Mills, Mayor  
Town of South Brook

1/7/2013
Bill

The water samples all came back good. The Non-Consumption Advisory is now lifted. News release is out. Web page is updated.

Regards, Martin

ADM Environment

sent via Blackberry Bold 9900
Thanks!
Tina
Department of Environment and Conservation Government of Newfoundland and Labrador P.O.Box 8700 St.John's, NL Canada A1B 4J6

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Hederson, Tom
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 01:40 PM
To: Coffey, Tina
Subject: Re: Media inquiry - South Brook. For your approval..o

Okay by me
Minister Tom Hederson

Department of Environment and Conservation and Minister Responsible for the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board and the Office of Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Emissions Trading

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 01:30 PM
To: Hederson, Tom
Subject: Media inquiry - South Brook. For your approval..

Good after noon Minister! Hope Santa was good to you!

I have a media request from the Telegram regarding South Brook. The following was prepared for your approval. I have forwarded to NR and Health for review as well.
Looking for approval to forward the following to s.30(1)
Thanks
Tina

Looking for some clarification here-
Minister Hederson had said it would be beyond Christmas and into 2013 before he would look at lifting the water advisory for South Brook. He spoke about making sure everything had "run its course," etc.

Wondering why it is that changed? Why did the Minister suddenly feel it was appropriate to lift the advisory before Christmas?

The dam breach at the Gullbridge tailings dam was reported in the morning of December 17th. The water supply of the Town of South Brook is located about 26 km downstream of the dam breach site. At the time of incident the Minister and his officials were uncertain about the magnitude of the breach, how much tailings material was released from the impoundment, and what the impact was on the water chemistry of South Brook.

Daily field measurements of the water chemistry at the water supply intake and upstream of South Pond were made during the period of December 17 to December 24, 2012. These field tests did not indicate any change in the water quality, i.e. water quality appeared to be the same as prior to the dam breach incident. In addition to daily field measurements, ENVC staff collected water samples from the water supply intake and upstream of South Pond. These samples were sent to the Government's contract water analysis laboratory (Exova Accustest Water Testing Lab in Ontario) on an emergency priority basis. Generally, under normal circumstances, the turn-around time for chemical water analysis is about three to four weeks. Fortunately, Exova Accustest Water Testing Lab was highly considerate of the situation and analyzed samples collected on December 17th, 18th and 19th on a rush basis.

The lab emailed analysis results for the samples collected on December 17th on December 22nd. However, a decision based on the results of one day's sample would have been premature. On December 24th, the lab emailed analysis
results of samples collected on December 18th and 19th. The results were reviewed in light of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and they were found to meet the guidelines. Additionally, detailed site inspections, hydraulic analysis and review of related data all contributed to a complete understanding of the impact of the breach on South Brook’s water supply. Based on this, the Medical Officer of Health rescinded the non-consumption advisory.

As well, what if any monitoring is being undertaken in the area on an ongoing basis? The water supply is tested regularly I know, but what about the South Pond area, etc.?

The Department of Environment and Conservation will continue to take field measurements and drinking water samples on a weekly basis. All available information relating to the dam breach incident, field inspection, field measurements, drinking water testing is available on the department’s web page, and is being updated as and when new information becomes available.


The department has been in touch with the Mayor of South Brook on a daily basis to keep the Town up to date.

Finally, are there plans for cleanup in the area of the tailings dam break?

Natural Resources have built a temporary containment berm at the dam breach site. NR is preparing plans for permanent site remediation.

Department of Environment and Conservation Government of Newfoundland and Labrador P.O.Box 8700 St.John's, NL Canada A1B 4J6
Vokey, Sharon

From: Hedderson, Tom
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 7:48 AM
To: Parrott, William
Subject: Re: Briefing on Gullbridge tailings dam breach

Now. Going on cbc at 8:10
Minister Tom Hedderson

Department of Environment and Conservation and Minister Responsible for the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board and the Office of Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Emissions Trading

From: Parrott, William
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 07:45 AM
To: Hedderson, Tom; Vokey, Sharon
Subject: Briefing on Gullbridge tailings dam breach

Minister

What time would you like us to come over to brief?

Bill
Vokey, Sharon

From: Hedderson, Tom
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 12:44 PM
To: Coffey, Tina
Subject: Re: Southbrook - helicopter tour scheduled for tomorrow due to weather...

Thanks for update.
Minister Tom Hedderson

Department of Environment and Conservation and Minister Responsible for the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board and the Office of Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Emissions Trading

From: Coffey, Tina
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 12:38 PM
To: Parrott, William; Hedderson, Tom; Goebel, Martin; Vokey, Sharon
Subject: Southbrook - helicopter tour scheduled for tomorrow due to weather...

Minister, FYI...

Weather is not good in South Brook. Helicopter flying is now scheduled for tomorrow. Clyde, ENVC staff, NR staff and Mayor will be on the helicopter.
Tina