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Community Update



Sockeye Salmon Observed in Edney Creek!

Approximately 30 Sockeye salmon were observed in the reconstructed portion of Edney Creek on September 17th. The salmon were observed migrating through and spawning within the rehabilitated areas. Ongoing fish inventory surveys are conducted throughout ice free months in Edney Creek. Minnow trapping is conducted to determine the species present and their distribution. In 2019 the trapping program identified that Rainbow Trout, Coho Salmon, Long Nose Dace and Burbot are using the system. Currently fall spawning surveys are being conducted twice monthly. The salmon observed on Sept. 17 represent the most salmon observed in Edney Creek in quite awhile.

Exciting news.

Pollution Abatement Order

On September 12th, BC-ENV rescinded the Pollution Abatement Order 107416 issued on August 5, 2014 under the Environmental Management Act [SBC 2003] Chapter 53 pertaining to abatement of pollution causing substances into the environment. A BC-ENV inspection on July 29th confirmed that all outstanding requirements under the order had been complied with. MPMC would like to thank those who helped us reach this important milestone in remediation and water management.



Edney Creek looking towards Quesnel Lake

MPMC EVENTS

Quarter 3 2019

September 5:

Global Tailings Review Committee Tour

September 27:

School District 27 Teachers Professional Development Day Tour

Quarter 4 2019

November 27:

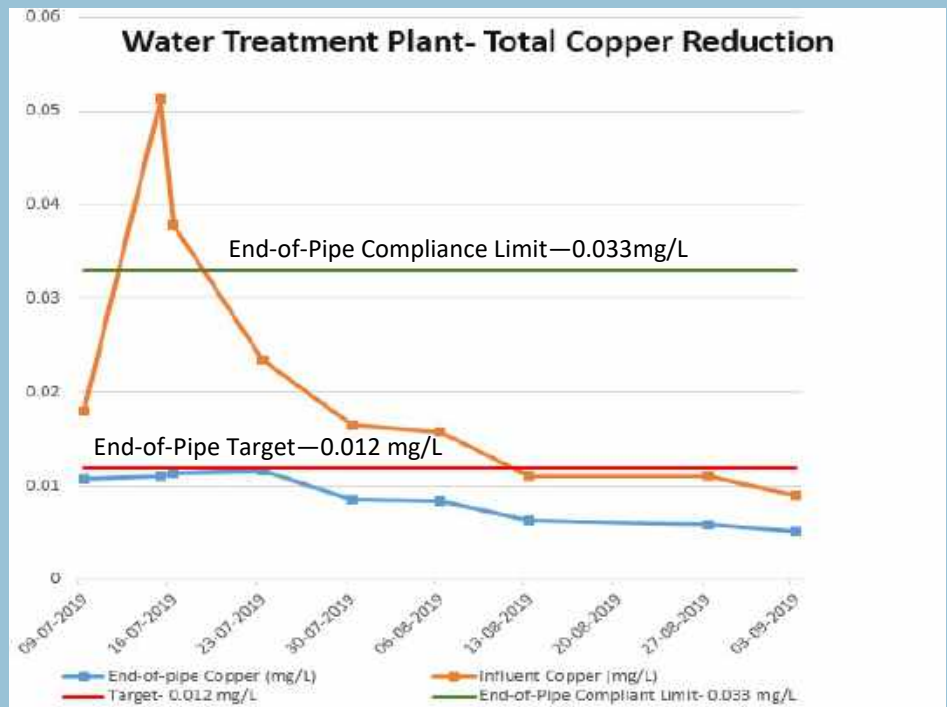
BC Environment & Climate Change Strategy Open House Likely 4:30—7:30

Environmental Work Continues throughout Care and Maintenance

All environmental monitoring and investigatory work continues at Mount Polley Mine throughout the current care and maintenance period. There are 14 staff members still working at the site, and numerous contractors are addressing project work as well.

There are 4 Environmental staff on site, and in addition to the staff, MPMC has hired DWB Consulting Services Ltd. to provide quality control and assurance and assist in addressing any compliance oversight.

All environmental monitoring is continuing under the Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring Plan (CEMP) and the relevant mining and environmental permits. Monitoring activities include surface and ground water sampling, water treatment plant sampling, plankton sampling, lake sediment and benthos sampling, fish population monitoring, Hazeltine Creek monitoring and fish reintroduction, hydrological monitoring, construction monitoring, fish surveys, and various other inspections.



Dredging Suspended in the Springer Pit

Dredging of tailing materials in the Springer Pit finished at the end of October. MDG Contracting Services is demobilizing their 2 dredges. Dredged tailings were delivered via pipeline to the tailings storage facility (TSF).



The cutting head for the dredge is used to cut and agitate the materials before being sucked into the dredge and pumped to the TSF.

Hazeltine Creek Remediation Continues

Remediation efforts continue in the areas affected by the tailings dam breach. In 2019, ~119,000 seedlings were planted in the riparian and upland areas adjacent to Hazeltine Creek. The creek construction continued in Reach 3 with channel realignment, habitat features and lower floodplain/riparian habitat. By the end of the 2019 construction in Reach 3 will be completed. Seed collection and ground cover seeding is planned for this fall and early 2020 in areas disturbed by the construction in 2019. Final design work is being completed by Golder Associates and Envirowest for the remaining channel work to be completed in lower Hazeltine and Edney Creeks. The final design will include decommissioning of the sedimentation ponds and conjoining the two creeks close to where they historically met. Remediation work is expected to continue in 2020 with work planned for completion in the Lower Hazeltine Creek area.



Construction in Hazeltine Creek continues. In order to dewater the worksite a bypass is used to divert the flow of water around the worksite, shown here.



Constructed Wetland Treatment System

An on-site pilot scale constructed wetland treatment system was installed in late 2018 at the mine to explore options for treatment of water by passive means during mine operations and closure. The wetland has been developing its vegetative and microbial communities and progressing towards commissioning. The plant community is very select and undesirable plant growth is removed. The wetlands at Mount Polley contain primarily cattails and aquatic mosses. The first sets of water chemistry samples were taken in Q3 of 2019, the results are pending. There are some parameters that have not yet been met in order to declare the wetland operational, mainly dissolved oxygen in the water column. As this is a newly constructed wetland, the conditions within the wetland sediments are not yet anoxic enough due to a lack of decomposing materials.



The Constructed Wetland Treatment System at Mount Polley Mine is composed of 3 Series, each with 2 cells of differing characteristics all being fed by the same source water. This photo shows the forebay of Cell 2A full of straw, used to accelerate the reducing process..