

AGENDA: BC/AK Bilateral Working Group

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10 AM–11 AM AKST, 11 AM -12 PM PST

Meeting location: Virtual–teleconference via Teams

Attendees:

British Columbia (B.C.):

- Nathaniel Amann-Blake, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM)
- Kevin Jardine, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV)
- Alex MacLennan, Associate Deputy Minister & Chief Executive Assessment Officer, Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)
- Chris Trumpy, Assistant Deputy Minister, EAO
- Kendra Johnston, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mines Competitiveness and Authorizations Division (MCAD), MCM
- Tania Demchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships Division (SIPD), MCM
- George Warnock, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement Division (MHSE), MCM
- Kathryn Forge, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), ENV
- Andrew Rollo, Executive Director, Tulsequah Reclamation, MHSE, MCM
- Tracy James, Executive Project Director, Metal Mining, EAO
- Brennan Hutchison, Director, Priorities Advancement, MCAD, MCM
- Michel Ryan-Aylward, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, SSPID, ENV

Alaska:

- Randy Bates, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Crystal Koeneman, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) - **absent**
- John Boyle, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - **absent**
- Brock Tabor, Special Projects Coordinator, DEC
- Jessalynn Rintala, Environmental Program Specialist IV (DEC)
- Rena Miller, Special Assistant, DNR

Teck Resources:

- Victoria Sterritt, Director, Legacy Properties
- Deborah Read, Site Manager
- Stephanie Tan, Manager, Government and Regulatory Affairs

Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN):

- Rodger Thorlakson, Land & Resources Manager
- Jackie Caldwell, Consultant, Environmental Advisor
- Chris Sergeant, Research Scientist, University of Washington

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Commissioner Randy Bates welcomed the group and the efforts by staff to prepare the agenda and information for today's meeting.
- Agenda was adopted with no edits or amendments.

B.C. Updates

Northwest Strategy

- Following the March BWG meeting, in May 2025 B.C. announced a vision for mining development in the northwest that combines economic growth, reconciliation and conservation to realize a multi-generational opportunity for significant investment. The Province has partnered with five First Nations to develop land use plans to support both protected areas and economic development certainty.
- Anticipate opportunities for public engagement on this work, including with Alaska state departments, Southeast Alaskan Tribes, and other interested parties in early 2026.

Tulsequah Chief Field Work

- Taku River Tlingit First Nations (TRTFN) and Teck Resources provided a summary of work completed at the site in summer of 2025
 - Infrastructure updates include stabilization of airstrip, replacement of two bridge decks, and general field camp facilities.
 - Completed drone survey of 970 meters of underground works on four levels.
 - Established safety controls on three levels and working on the fourth (lowest) level.
 - Continued water and sediment sampling in accordance with previous plans.
- Parties are currently working on summarizing 2025 data for a summary report for publication on the B.C. Tulsequah Chief Mine Clean-up website (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-permitting-compliance/tulsequah-mine>).
- Teck is starting to develop its 2026 field plan.
- B.C. is committed to keeping the Tulsequah website up to date. Interested parties can sign up on the website to be informed about website updates as released.
- TRTFN holds a public forum twice per year with the next meeting scheduled for November.

Discussion

- Alaska shared a request for B.C. to explore opportunities in 2025-2026 for additional information sharing and engagement about the ongoing work at Tulsequah with stakeholders and Tribes in Alaska, including possible webinars to summarize field work completed to date, upcoming plans for further work, and how those efforts will inform cleanup of the site.
 - Comments from the public at a recent New Polaris open house identified many concerns about the current Tulsequah cleanup, the amount of time it has taken to get to this point, and concerns about opening a new mine.
 - The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reviews water quality data collected by U.S. Geologic Survey and other parties on transboundary rivers on an annual basis. This data can be used to determine whether there are any geochemical signals that can be attributed to mining or other human-related activities. To date, the data has shown concentrations of metals in the vicinity of the Alaska/B.C. border are

consistent with natural levels of metals anticipated to be present in highly mineralized watersheds and is consistent with the data collected by B.C.

- These reports are available at <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/> and <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/transboundary>.
- The most recent review of transboundary water quality data occurred in September 2025, and DEC is currently developing the associated report. Once complete, the report will also be publicly available on the websites listed above.
- Up-to-date information regarding the Tulsequah Chief Mine, including work conducted at site and opportunities for public information sessions, is available at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-permitting-compliance/tulsequah-mine>
- Despite the availability of information and data to the public regarding Tulsequah and other transboundary issues on both [B.C.](#) and [Alaska](#) websites, there is concern that more work is needed to ensure Alaskans are aware of the information that is available.
- B.C. committed to work with TRTFN and Teck to review engagement plans that are already in place for 2025-2026 and explore opportunities for additional outreach. Additional discussion can occur during the monthly transboundary staff meetings.
 - Post-meeting follow-up: Teck and TRTFN will be hosting a webinar regarding progress at the Tulsequah Chief Mine on December 3, 2025. Further information will be posted to <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-permitting-compliance/tulsequah-mine>

Alaska Updates

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) received an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant to conduct fish tissue collection and analysis in 2026 and potentially in 2027. ADF&G is currently developing the quality assurance project plan and other grant requirements. ADF&G will inform B.C. about the timing and location of collection events in 2026.
- USGS continues to collect water quality data via “super gages.” USGS is in the process of finalizing a literature review of transboundary publications to date. USGS anticipates publishing a report about water quality data collected and analyzed since transboundary monitoring commenced at some point in the future when staffing allows.
- Alaska DEC staff are able to assist with coordinating outreach to Alaskan stakeholders as needed.

Conclusion

- B.C. expressed an interest in holding future discussions at the “AME Round-up” event in Vancouver in January as time and participation allows.
- B.C. and Alaska will coordinate a field visit for Commissioners to visit the Tulsequah Chief site in 2026 to see firsthand the progress to date, upcoming plans for work on the site, and to support Alaskan officials in better responding to the public about concerns with the site.
- Alaska (DEC Commissioner) passes the BWG chair position to B.C. (Deputy Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals) for 2026.

Appendix – BC Project Updates since last BWG

New Polaris Gold Mine

- The applicant is developing its application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate. The Applicant is working towards submitting the application to the Environmental Assessment Office in Q1/Q2 2026.

Eskay Creek Revitalization

- The project is in Effects Assessment phase of the environmental assessment, the final phase during which the Environmental Assessment Office completes its report and recommendations and prepares for referral to the two deciding provincial ministers.
- A public comment period (the final one of the environmental assessment) was held from August 26 to September 25, 2025.
- The project's major permit applications were submitted to the Major Mines Office in May 2025.

Red Chris Mine

- The Environmental Assessment Office is continuing its review of the proposed amendment to move from open-pit mining to underground block cave mining.
- The project's major permit applications were submitted to the Major Mines Office in June 2025.

Brucejack Mine

- In April 2025, Mines Act/Environmental Management Act amendments were approved to increase the project's ore production rate from 3800 to 4950 tonnes per day, thereby, decreasing the overall mine life by three years with the end of mining occurring in 2029.
- In August 2025, the Environmental Assessment Office issued an amendment for a change to the Brucejack Access Road.

Premier Mine

- The mine entered Care and Maintenance between September and December 2024. It briefly restarted mine development in December 2024 but re-entered Care and Maintenance in Spring 2025.