



TŜILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

253 – 4th Avenue North - Williams Lake, BC V2G 4T4 - Phone (250) 392-3918 - Fax (250) 398-5798

PRESS RELEASE

Taseko Mines Ltd. in denial of the reality of New Prosperity

Williams Lake, BC (July 26, 2016): The Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) is speaking out against Taseko Mines Limited's (TSX:TKO) recent statements about proceeding with an amendment process for its 2010 provincial approval, and its intention to apply for permits to conduct further drilling in the Teztan Biny (Fish Lake)/Nabas region.

The Federal Government rejected both the Prosperity and New Prosperity Mine proposals after independent expert panels delivered two of the most scathing environmental assessment reports in Canadian history, describing profound cultural and environmental impacts.

The project cannot proceed in the face of the Federal Government rejection. It is unbelievable and unacceptable that TML continues to waste everyone's time, energy, money and goodwill—including its own shareholders and Canadian taxpayers. This is being done after independent federal panels found the project posed significant and immitigable impacts to the environment, Tsilhqot'in Aboriginal rights, culture, identity and way of life, and the Harper government firmly rejected the mine.

Even if TML were successful in the BC amendment process, the New Prosperity project cannot be built because it does not have federal environmental approvals.

The Tsilhqot'in Nation has one of Canada's only court declarations of proven Aboriginal hunting and trapping rights in the area of the proposed mine. In December 2011, the BC Supreme Court noted that each new incursion into the area with a drilling program causes irreparable damage to habitat and further diminishes the exercise of Aboriginal rights by the Tsilhqot'in people.

The Tsilhqot'in Nation is opposed to any further disturbance at Teztan Biny and Yanah Biny and will take steps to ensure that this does not occur.

Quotes:

Chief Roger William, Vice-Chair of the Tsilhqot'in National Government and Chief of the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation:

"The area of this proposal is an area of declared Aboriginal Rights and adjacent to the first ever declared Aboriginal title lands. It is a place of tremendous cultural and spiritual importance for our people—it is a cultural school, a gathering place, burial grounds and home for our members who were born and raised there. The area is also within Xeni Gwet'in's trapline area. Our people have stood up twice, our voices were heard, and this project was rejected. We live in a time when the land needs to be protected for our future generations. We need to find another way forward that respects our basic human rights as Indigenous peoples to self-determination and protection of the lands and waters that sustain our way of life."

Chief Russell Myers Ross, Chief of Yunesit'in:

"Taseko Mines Limited has proposed this mine twice through the federal CEAA review process and failed: it is a dead project. Nevertheless, it appears there is renewed hope to capitalize on failure. It seems clear to us that TML is again just toying with people and investor's money and that they have no real plan other than making manoeuvres and threats to be bought out by BC. It is my opinion that TML acts in contempt of the public good. Teztan Biny is preserved as a cultural area, in the headwaters of one of the most diverse ecosystems in Canada, and it is the Tsilhqot'in nation's intent to keep it that way."

Media Contact:

Myanna Desaulniers
Strategic Initiatives and Communication Manager
Tsilhqot'in National Government
250-305-7885