



TŚILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Gibraltar Mines Ltd. added to Canada's Environmental Offenders Registry— Affirms Tsilhqot'in Nation's concerns about Gibraltar Mines Ltd./Taseko Mines Ltd.

Williams Lake, BC (July 15, 2016): The Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) is disappointed but not surprised that Gibraltar Mines Ltd. (TSE:TKO) has been added to Canada's Environmental Offenders Registry. Gibraltar pleaded guilty to five offences under the *Fisheries Act* for non-compliance in environmental monitoring and reporting.

The convictions support TNG's calls for independent, First Nation-led monitoring of the mine. As affirmed by a recent Auditor General's report, the practice of industry regulating itself cannot continue.

Gibraltar was convicted of failing to notify or report that it exceeded permitted levels of discharge into the Fraser River, raising TNG's concerns about Gibraltar's plan to triple its discharge of mine effluent directly to the Fraser River, without sophisticated water treatment. The mine is located less than 1 km from an ?Esdilagh First Nation reserve, and discharges into the river upstream from ?Esdilagh fishing sites.

In addition, a water retaining dam recently overtopped at the mine, resulting in the release of mine effluent into the environment, and just last week, the effluent discharge pipeline leaked.

Quotes:

Chief Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chairman of the Tsilhqot'in National Government and Chief of Tl'etinqox:

"These convictions are a demonstration of this company's inability to follow environmental regulations and protect the environment. This isn't a matter of saying 'whoops, we'll do better.' It's time the company acknowledged the serious impacts of the mine on ?Esdilagh and the Fraser River and took steps to address them. The public has high expectations for protection of the environment and in my opinion this company continues to have little thought or care for the sensitive environment it surrounds. The Nation is grateful that this company was rejected twice by the Federal Government from developing a mine in the Fish Lake area."

Chief Bernie Mack, Chief of ?Esdilagh First Nation:

"We welcome higher environmental standards and water treatment for operating mines. In the wake of Mount Polley, I support convictions against poor mining practices."

Information:

<http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/gibraltar-mines-ltd-penalized-for-environmental-offences-586674111.html>

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