



June 20, 1985.

M.O. 0487

Father Charles Brandt,
Chairman,
Tsolum River Enhancement Committee,
The Steelhead Society of British Columbia,
Comox Valley Chapter,
R.R.1, Site 22,
Black Creek, British Columbia.
VOR 1CO

Dear Father Brandt:

Thank you for your letter of April 24, 1985, regarding the abandoned Mt. Washington Copper Mine. I share your concern that effluent from this mine may be affecting fish stocks in the Tsolum River. I have asked my staff to co-operate with the Ministry of Environment to fully assess the magnitude of the problem and, if required, to develop an appropriate strategy for controlling the problem.

It is not the current policy of this government to allow a mining company to abandon a property without first completing a reclamation program. Mt. Washington Copper, however, operated prior to the enactment of mine reclamation legislation in 1969 and was, therefore, not required to undertake a reclamation program.

I am hopeful that staff of my Ministry, together with those of the Ministry of Environment, will be able to find an appropriate solution to this problem.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours truly,

Stephen Rogers,
Minister of Energy, Mines
and Petroleum Resources.

cc: The Honourable W.R. Bennett.
The Honourable F.C. Austin Pelton.
Mr. Robert E. Skelly.
Mr. Rory Glennie.
Mr. Cal Woods.