

Minister of  
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des  
Pêches et des Océans

CANADA

June 18, 1990

Father Charles A.E. Brandt (yde)  
Chairman  
Tsolum River Enhancement Committee  
Comox Valley Chapter  
The Steelhead Society of British Columbia  
R.R. #1, Site 22  
Black Creek, British Columbia  
V0R 1C0

Dear Father Brandt:

Thank you for your letter of March 14, 1990, concerning the abandoned Mount Washington Copper Mine and the copper leachates that have been entering the Tsolum River.

It is correct that there was no reduction in the dissolved copper levels entering the Tsolum River following the October and November rains; however, this may be a result of disturbances to the pit floor that happened during construction of the till covering. The discharges are being closely monitored and we hope that a reduction of copper levels will be evident this spring.

Again, this year the Provincial Ministry of Environment and the Federal Department of the Environment will monitor the metal levels and try to better identify the sources of these contaminants. Further engineering studies may also be required for additional possible abatement solutions; however, this will be dependent on more monitoring information.

The provincial government has assured this Department that the monitoring programs will be undertaken to determine the scope of the problem and what abatement work may be necessary to correct it.

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Thank you again for expressing your concern for the fishery resource.

Yours truly,



Bernard Valcourt

c.c.: The Honourable William Vander Zalm  
The Honourable John Reynolds, M.L.A.  
The Honourable John Savage, M.L.A.  
The Honourable Claude Richmond, M.L.A.  
The Honourable Stan Hagen, M.L.A.