



March 23, 1988

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

Dear Father Brandt:

Thank you for your letter of December 10, 1987 on the effects of acid mine drainage on the Tsolum River. I am also very concerned about the devastating impact that the Mt. Washington mine has had on the fishery of the Tsolum. For that reason I am very pleased to inform you that a program of remedial action, proposed jointly by my Ministry and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, has been approved by Treasury Board for implementation as soon as conditions permit this spring.

The first stage of this project will entail the control of surface drainage, the installation of an impermeable clay seal on the waste dumps, and the establishment of an intensive monitoring program. If the clay seal does not significantly reduce acid generation, then the second stage of this project, involving the installation of a synthetic membrane, will be carried out. While the synthetic membrane would be almost certainly successful in the short-term, we would like to start with the natural clay seal for two reasons: first, there is some doubt about the long-term durability of artificial membranes; and second, artificial membranes are too expensive to be applied to large mining projects and we would like to use the

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Father C. Brandt

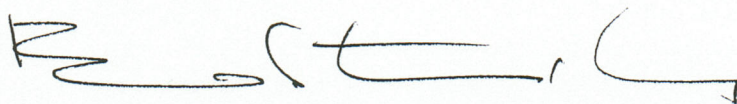
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opportunity provided by the Mt. Washington minesite to carry-out practical research on acid mine drainage control.

I see two major benefits from this work; the development of feasible acid mine drainage management techniques for application to other problem mines in the province, and second, the eventual rehabilitation of the once-productive fishery on the Tsolum.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Strachan". The signature is stylized with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke.

Bruce Strachan
Minister of Environment
and Parks

c.c. Honourable Jack Davis
Minister of Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources