



June 27, 1985

Father Charles Brandt
Chairman
Tsolum River Enhancement Committee
B. C. Steelhead Society
R. R. #1, Site 22
Black Creek, B. C.
VOR 1C0

Dear Father Brandt:

Thank you for your letters of April 24 and June 14, 1985, concerning the Tsolum River and the abandoned mine on Mount Washington.

I share your concern over this matter. At the present time my Ministry, along with technical staff from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and Environment Canada, are monitoring the site and adjacent streams. A preliminary report on the magnitude of the problem and the options for resolving it is anticipated in July.

Until the results of this investigation are known it is difficult to fully respond to some of the questions posed in your letter. However I am advised that similar problems with other mines have been successfully resolved.

The requirements for bonding and reclamation of mining operations are within the mandate of my colleague the Honourable Stephen Rogers, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. You may wish to direct specific questions on these issues to him.

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I appreciate your interest and your concerns will be fully considered in the resolution of this matter.

Yours sincerely,



F. C. Austin Pelton
Minister

cc: The Honourable William R. Bennett
Premier of British Columbia

The Honourable Stephen Rogers
Minister of Energy, Mines
and Petroleum Resources

Mr. M. Ito, P.Eng.
Director
Environmental Protection Branch
Environment Canada

Mr. T. H. Oxland
Regional Director
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Robert Skelly, M.L.A.
N.D.P. Caucus

Leader of the Opposition

Ms. Karen Sanford, M.L.A.
N.D.P. Caucus