



Field trip members view concrete cover poured on top of waste rock

Reclamation committee members tour mine site

Members of the Mt. Washington mine reclamation committee and a host of government and industry officials recently toured the abandoned open-pit copper mine to receive a progress report on the five-year-old project.

The project's aim is to stop the flow of copper leachates from the site that has had a detrimental impact on the Tsolum River.

Father Charles Brandt, spokesman for the mine reclamation project committee, says project engineer Murray Galbraith, of the resource management branch of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, organized the field trip.

Those invited included committee members and representatives of the Ministry of

Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, and industry.

The field trip was preceded by a meeting the night before at the Westerly Hotel at which information concerning the project was reviewed, Brandt says. Another meeting was held after the field trip.

The project was commenced in 1988 on the basis of recommendations by Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten (B.C.) Inc., a consulting firm of geotechnical and mining engineers based in Vancouver.

Early on in the project, part of the site was covered by a mixture of sand, gravel and clay (till).

Galbraith explained and pointed out additional work undertaken since the till covering, most of which has taken place on the pit floor.

This work has included treating portions of the pit floor with an asphalt emulsion, covering one section with a concrete cap, washing down other areas and treating parts of the floor with waterproof sheeting.

Tim Schwab, a field technician with the energy minister, pointed out some of the sophisticated monitoring and sampling equipment on the site, Brandt says.

Environment Ministry official Lloyd Ericson said the ministry plans to improve the wetlands through which Pyrrhotite Creek runs