

Island Copper
884329

BHP-UTAH Mines Ltd.

Island Copper Mine
P.O. Box 870
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(604) 948-8828



BHP-UTAH
Minerals International

May 24, 1991

Mr. R. Bone
Ministry of Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources
1A, 3411 Shenton Road
Nanaimo, B.C.,
V9T 2H1.

Dear Mr. Bone:

Thank you for your letter of May 14, 1991, re increasing the mill production rate to 60,000 tons/day.

In conversation with Keith Ferguson, Environment Canada on May 21, 1991, it was found that increasing mill production above 55,000 tons/day would qualify Island Copper as an expanded mine, under the Metal Mining Liquid Effluent Regulations (MMLER). Island Copper is currently subject to this legislation only as a guideline. The tailings discharge from Island Copper does not meet the regulated levels specified in the MMLER. Discharge above 55,000 tons/day would subject the mine to a legal liability under section 33 of the Fisheries Act.

Under these circumstances there seems no point in pursuing an application for increasing mill throughput. Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter. I remain.

Yours truly,

S.F. Fuensalida
Mine Manager

cc: R. McInn
K. Ferguson
I.A. Horne
of: