



Alaska tribal groups urge international commission to study B.C. mine safety

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A coalition of aboriginal tribes in southeast Alaska wants a Canada-U.S. commission to review the impact of B.C. mines on shared waters.

Fourteen tribes have formed the United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group and want both governments to evaluate B.C. mining-safety practices through an International Joint Commission.

The call follows the release of an independent report that blamed poor dam design for the failure of a tailings pond at the Mount Polley mine, near Williams Lake, B.C., in August.

Co-chair Carrie James says Alaskans are not convinced B.C. can accomplish its mining activities without harming their shared environment, and they don't trust current safeguards.

The group wants a moratorium on the development of large-scale mines along the southeast border with B.C.

A spokesman for the International Joint Commission says the organization is aware of the issues, but would only launch a review if given a formal mandate by both federal governments.