

Report into Mount Polley disaster due soon

Vancouver, BC, Canada / (CKNW AM) AM980

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January 16, 2015 10:47 am



We should be seeing the report on the massive Mount Polley tailings pond breach soon.

Energy and Mines minister Bill Bennett says the report will be released to the province and First Nations groups in the Williams Lake area first.

“I am hopeful to release the report to the public very very quickly after that.”

Bennett is insisting that this report will have some teeth.

“We have to start with what was the cause of this horrible accident. We have to know what it is. There has been lots of speculation that oh goodness if you would have had a half dozen more inspectors there that wouldn’t have happened. That type of speculation is understandable but it is not that helpful. We need to know from the experts what actually caused the accident and then we can decide how we fix it and make sure that it doesn’t happen again. If that means that the government has to change some of its processes and policies that is what we will do. If it means that we have to provide more oversight, if it means that engineering firms need to do things differently, or mining companies need to do things differently we will fix this. This cannot happen again.”

Imperial Metals has filed with the province to try and partially re-open its mine after the August disaster.