



Reference: 246979

March 25, 2019

VIA EMAIL: justus.benckhuysen@riotinto.com

Justus Benckhuysen, Nechako Operations Coordinator
Rio Tinto
PO Box 25
Vanderhoof, British Columbia
VOJ 3A0

Dear Justus Benckhuysen:

The Water Engagement Initiative is a positive step to address concerns in the Nechako River and to increase engagement and transparency around Rio Tinto's water management operations, and inform a new water management plan.

I am pleased to provide support on behalf of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development through staff input on the initiative and the incorporation of any outcomes into authorizations as necessary.

The Province of British Columbia's support is tied to Rio Tinto's commitment to:

- fulsome engagement with First Nations in the process;
 - potential water licence changes as a result of the outcomes of the process;
 - provision of an independent consultant to lead this engagement; and,
 - provision of technical resources regarding the availability and understanding of hydrological information to the community, interested parties, and Indigenous nations.
- This technical support is critical to increasing the understanding of the local communities and to better enable them to meaningfully contribute to this initiative.

I encourage you to continue with the development of the Water Engagement Initiative and to implement operational changes that may come out of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Manwaring".

Richard Manwaring, R.P.F.
Associate Deputy Minister