

**Subject:** FW: Questions from the Children from Taseko Lake Lodge concerning their health & future here

**Attachments:** Beece Creek flows.pdf

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**From:** Roderick Bell-Irving [mailto:RoderickBell-Irving@tasekomines.com]

**To:** sigfried Reuter

**Cc:** Prosperity Review [CEAA]

**Subject:** RE: Questions from the Children from Taseko Lake Lodge concerning their health & future here

Hi Justin, Jesse, Kelsey & Kara,

Thanks for your interest in the Prosperity Mine and I apologize for the delay in responding. I have been rather busy of late.

I am writing this in response to your letter that you sent to me and the federal Panel reviewing our proposed Prosperity Project. In your e-mail you stated:

**“Water levels and potential flooding:** Seeing as how Taseko Mines has neglected to consider our family’s well being and safety so far and no one has ever been around at Spring melt off or seen the high water level... and in your EIS you expect the water levels to increase through your 'lake' and then down the Beece Creek....”

You then asked the question: “Will you be reinforcing the south bank above the lodge yard and ensuring our family's safety and the continued safety of our home & buildings?”

The simple answer to your question is no, we are not planning to reinforce the south bank but we have considered your family’s safety and the continued safety of your home and buildings..

Taseko Mines will not be reinforcing the south bank above the lodge yard because any water that the Mine puts in Beece Creek will not make the water level of the creek rise very much at all, and especially when the creek is in flood.. This is because the amount of water that the Mine could put in Beece Creek is very small compared to how much water is naturally in the creek. Even if the Mine puts lots of water in the Creek at the same time that the creek is at a very high level, which is very unlikely, the water level will only rise about 3 cm, which is less than the thickness of your shoe.

You probably wonder how we know this? Well, despite what you might have heard, environmental scientists working for Taseko Mines did measure flows in Beece Creek, and they did it for quite a long time. In fact, water levels in Beece Creek were measured approximately every second day for about five years, from December 1992 until July 1997, at a location very close to your home. As well, the amount of flow in the creek was measured a number of times, and this information was used to determine the flows that corresponded to each measured water level. A graph showing how much water was in Beece Creek over the five years is provided on the attached Figure, as shown by the area shaded in blue.

At the same time that flows were being measured in Beece Creek, they were also being measured in Fish Creek, so we know pretty well how much water the Mine might have to divert to Beece Creek, which is shown on the attached Figure in green. You will notice that flows in Beece Creek are much greater than those available in Fish Creek. You will also notice that flood flows in the two creeks occur at slightly different times, so most of the water from Fish Creek will have already passed by your house before the flows in Beece Creek get really big. The other thing to keep in mind is that the Mine needs to capture some of the flow and save it in a lake to help fish. Therefore, all the green flow can't be added to the blue flow. As well, it is important to realize that the green flow will have to go through two lakes that the Mine is making, and then through Wasp Lake, before it ever gets to Beece Creek. After it passes through the lakes the green flow pattern will become much smoother and the high flows will become smaller because some of the water will temporarily be used to fill up the lakes.

In addition to the collecting flow and water level data for Beece Creek, the environmental scientists also collected information about the shape and size of the creek channel. This information allows us to figure out how much water the creek can hold before it floods its banks. Based on this information, and some photos on your website ([www.tasekolake.com](http://www.tasekolake.com)), it looks like the creek can hold about  $25 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ . This flow likely occurs in Beece Creek about once every couple of years, and so I bet that Beece Creek overflows its banks fairly often, say every two to five years. I guess that's why you have all those rocks around the base of the buildings on your property. You might notice that this flow is larger than the largest flow shown on the attached Figure. That's because the values on the Figure are from measurements taken once every other day, while we know that water levels in the creek can rise and fall very fast. The highest flows in each year, which would have happened for quite short periods of time, were likely about twice as large as those shown on the Figure.

25 m<sup>3</sup>/s is a lot of water. At this flow rate the water would move very fast and be quite deep, with an average depth of about 1.2 m to 1.5 m. The largest flows that could be diverted into Beece Creek by the Mine are likely about 1 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Adding this amount of water would increase the water level in the creek by about 3 cm. It is very likely that the amount of water that the Mine would add to Beece Creek when the water level is very high would be much less than this, and therefore any associated increase in water level would be much less than 3 cm. As well, if the creek was to overflow its banks and flood the area around your home, any increase to the flood level caused by the water from the Mine would be so small that you wouldn't be able to measure it. Once the creek overflows its banks the water has so many places to go that the water level won't rise very much. Therefore, Taseko Mines, based upon our information and understanding of the flows in Beece Creek, doesn't think that the addition of water to Beece Creek by the Mine will noticeably increase the flood risk to your home, which is already quite high because your home is located in a place that is naturally flooded quite often.

We hope that you understand this explanation and can explain it to your mum. Please appreciate that Taseko Mines appreciates this opportunity to address your concern and that your safety and well being will remain foremost in our mind.

All the best,

Rod

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**From:** sigfried Reuter <email address removed>  
**Sent:** April 26, 2010 6:56 AM  
**To:** Roderick Bell-Irving  
**Cc:** Prosperity Review [CEAA]  
**Subject:** Questions from the Children from Taseko Lake Lodge concerning their health & future here

Dear Taseko Miners,

**Air and water quality** Considering the prevailing winds are north - south and with the nearness of our home to the open pit, dams & tailings pond, we are put in direct line of the mines fall out!!

A baseline of air & water quality from our home here rather than using tables and charts from Greater Vancouver and Williams Lake along with more stringent monitoring of pollutants, dust, emissions, gasses off the mined ore, and ongoing water sampling would be far superior to ignoring the fact that we are living here and risk hazard and impacts to our family's health.

1. What is our surety of continued pristine air and water quality here?
2. How are you going to be accountable to us here in the neighborhood to address these concerns?

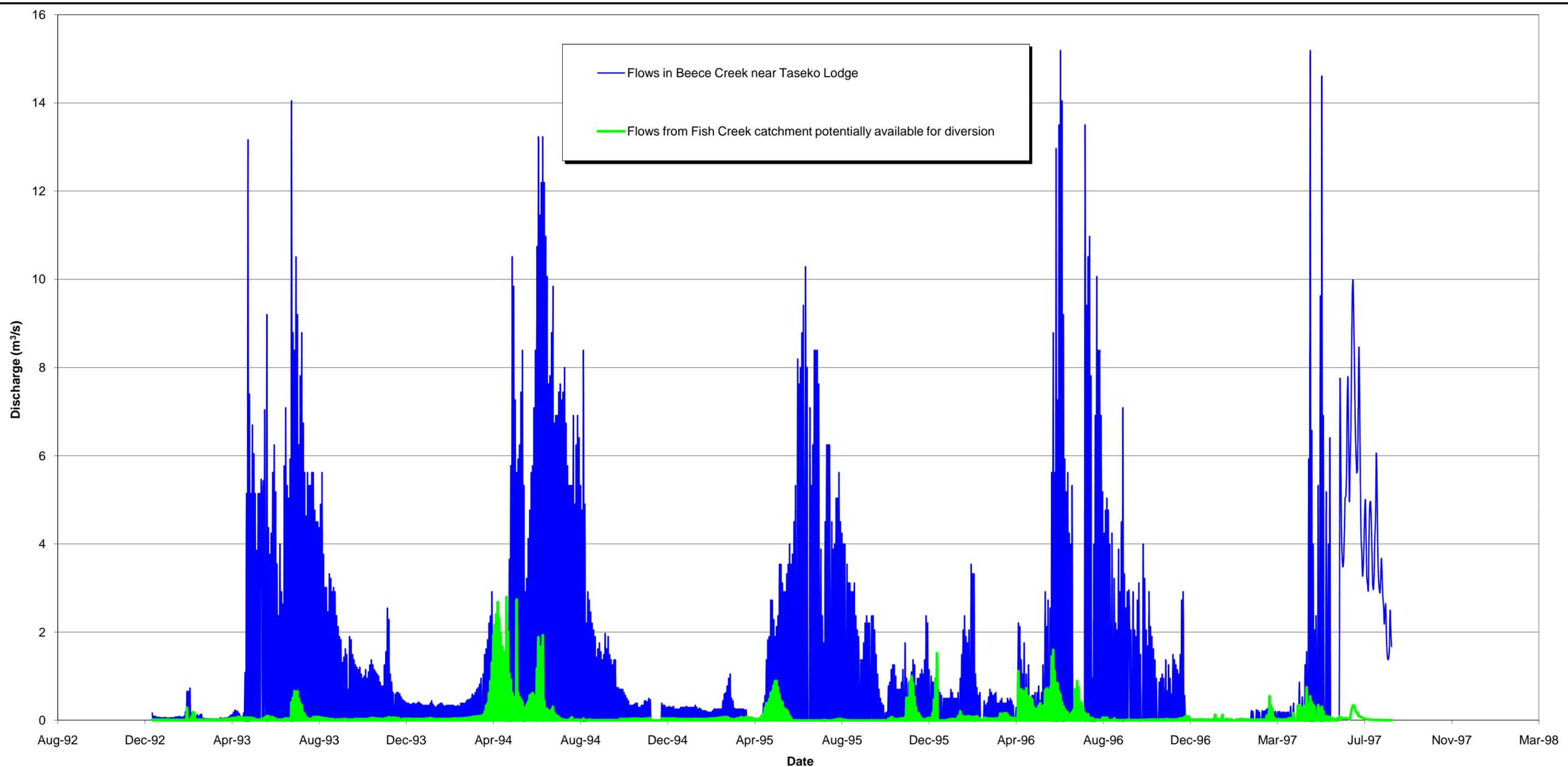
**Water levels and potential flooding** Seeing as how Taseko Mines has neglected to consider our family's well being and safety so far and no one has ever been around at Spring melt off or seen the high water level... and in your EIS you expect the water levels to increase through your 'lake' and then down the Beece Creek....

3. Will you be reinforcing the south bank above the lodge yard and ensuring our family's safety and the continued safety of our home & buildings?

Sincerely,

## Justin, Jesse, Kelsey & Kara Reuter with help from Mom

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TASEKO MINES LIMITED	
PROSPERITY GOLD-COPPER PROJECT	
COMPARISON OF FLOWS IN BEECE CREEK NEAR TASEKO LODGE AND FISH CREEK FLOWS AVAILABLE FOR DIVERSION	
	P/A NO. VA101-266/15
	REF. NO. -
<b>FIGURE 1</b>	
	REV A

A	30APR'10	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	ER	JGC	-
REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	PREP'D	CHK'D	APP'D