

**Teck Cominco Spill of 25 Cubic meters of a mixture of water and pH Solution into Columbia River –
Report by Carol Vanelli Worosz Teck's Community Engagement Leader**

Some key points related to this incident as well as a description of our Effluent Treatment Plant.

- Trail Operations takes this incident seriously and we are conducting a full investigation as to its cause.
- The incident occurred when up to 25 cubic meters of a mixture of water and high pH solution was drained to a line that connects to the domestic sewer line running to the Regional District Sewage Treatment Plant. That mixture was surface drainage, including rain water and snow melt, and some sodium hydroxide solution.
- The mixture was intended to go to our on-site Effluent Treatment Plant where it would have been treated. Interconnecting piping allowed the solution to go to the domestic sewer line. The piping has been physically removed and we are conducting a full check of the domestic sewer system throughout our plant to ensure no similar connections exist.
- As part of our investigation, we will be determining how the piping connection got into place and reviewing the procedures that allowed this mixture to go to the domestic sewer instead of our Effluent Treatment Plant.
- There is not expected to be any long-term impact on fish or the environment. There is no human health concern and there is no impact on the community's drinking water.
- An independent third party environmental impact assessment will be conducted. We are working on finalizing these details so this work can commence.

Trail Operations uses a large amount of water – over 40,000 gallons a minute.

Most of the water is used for cooling and goes out to the Columbia River relatively clean, although it can pick up contaminants along the way.

The Effluent Treatment Plant collects these contaminated solutions in a large storage lagoon, along with rainfall drainage from many of the plant areas.

The combined 'feed' is treated with lime and other reagents to precipitate the metals as an insoluble sludge.

Separating out the sludge in a clarifier leaves a clean effluent within environmental permit standards.

The effluent is then sent to the river. The precipitated sludge is separated in a clarifier, filtered and recycled, mainly to our KIVCET lead smelter, for metal recovery.

I will ensure that any follow-up news releases are sent to you directly for your reference.

Regards,

Carol Vanelli Worosz
Community Engagement Leader
Teck Metals Ltd.