

Aluminium Product Group
Primary Metal – BC Operations
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24 December 2015

Good afternoon:

I am writing today to provide you with an update on the permit amendment appeal hearing process.

On December 23, 2015, the B.C. Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) rendered its decision regarding Rio Tinto's permit amendment. Based on the evidence and submissions made by each of the parties, **the EAB confirmed our permit amendment.**

Although it is welcome news for Rio Tinto that the MOE Director's decision was upheld, and the rigor and cautious approach of the science were confirmed by the EAB, we also recognize that there is more work to do to address community concerns regarding air quality in the Kitimat Valley.

In providing their confirmation, the EAB included a series of recommendations. Over the coming months, we will be working to fully assess them and we will continue to involve the local community including residents, stakeholders and our employees as we do so, noting that some of the recommendations have already started to be implemented.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Kitimat, our valued stakeholders and our employees for their support during this process. At Rio Tinto, we are committed to protecting the health and well-being of our employees, the community, and the environment as we modernize our BC Operations.

If you would like to read the full decision, please visit the following link on the BC Environmental Appeal Board website: http://www.eab.gov.bc.ca/ema/2013ema007g_010g.pdf

Sincerely,



Gaby Poirier
General manager – BC Operations
Rio Tinto, Aluminium Products Group