

Improvements Since Mount Polley

2014 - 2016

Exploratory work on regulatory changes ongoing during site investigation

Mines Investigation Unit
Created in 2017. Responsible for carrying out investigations of fatalities, serious injury incidents, major environmental incidents, and major or chronic non-compliance with the *Mines Act* and the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code. Under the *Mines Act*, the ministry has authority to address non-compliance through orders, administrative monetary penalties, administrative sanctions, and prosecution. The ministry developed tools to address non-compliance.

2017

New Division
In 2019 the compliance and authorizations responsibilities were placed in separate divisions.

Mines Health, Safety & Enforcement Division
Delivering trusted and effective regulatory oversight of British Columbia's mining sector focused on the safety and health of workers, environmental protection and Indigenous reconciliation

2019

Abandoned Mines Unit
Created in 2019 and is responsible for the management and reclamation of abandoned mines and tailings storage facilities. The Unit's object is to address physical hazards to public safety, environmental risks, and environmental contamination.

Responsible Mining & Competitiveness Division
Delivering trusted and effective regulatory and authorization processes, policies, science and information that support mining sector competitiveness, advance Indigenous reconciliation and foster sustainability in mining practices

2020

Separation of Authority
In 2020 the *Mines Act* was amended to separate the compliance and authorization responsibilities.

Chief Inspector
Responsible for health and safety and compliance and enforcement on mine sites under the *Mines Act*.

Chief Permitting Officer
Responsible for authorizing work on mine sites under the *Mines Act*.

Chief Auditor and Mines Audit Unit
Role created in 2020. Responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of provincial mining regulations in protecting the public, workers, and the environment. Has the authority to develop an audit plan, carry out audits, produce reports with conclusions, and make recommendations if necessary.

In addition to safety related audits, an audit of tailings regulation was completed in 2021. Audits of reclamation security and mine closure are expected in 2024.