

MT PERCY TAILINGS DAM — EROSION ISSUE

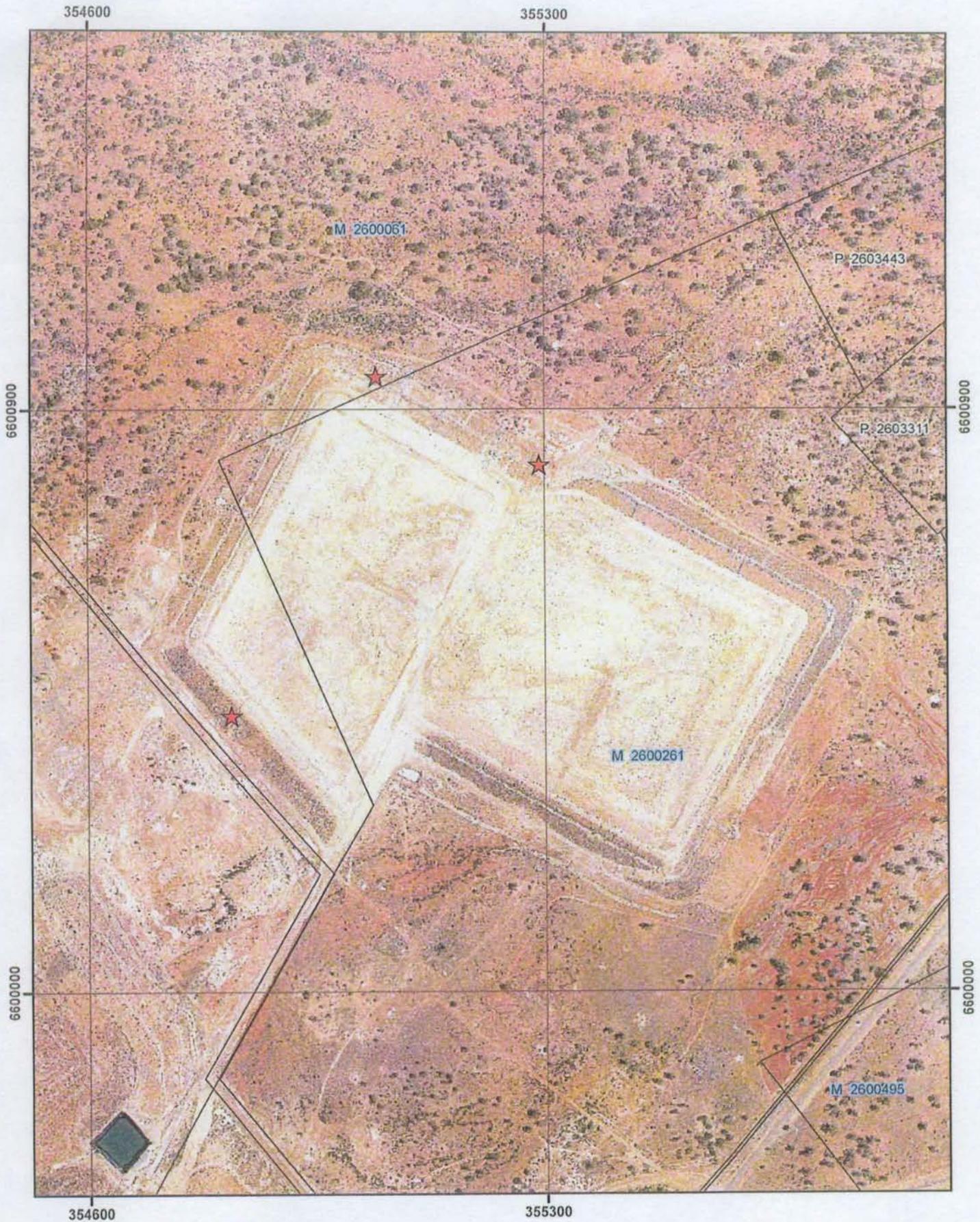
3237. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

I refer to the Mt Percy tailings dam located in close proximity to Kalgoorlie-Boulder owned by Barrick Gold and Newmont mining, operated and managed by Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Pty Ltd (KCGM), and ask —

- (1) Can the Minister provide a detailed Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) map indicating the locations of excessive erosion of the external batters on the Mt Percy tailings dam?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Will the DMP instruct or direct KCGM to immediately fix and rectify any excessive areas of erosion on the Mt Percy tailings dam with a view to ensuring that the rehabilitation is undertaken in such a manner so as to prevent any further ongoing excessive erosion occurring on the Mt Percy tailings dam?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) Can the Minister indicate in the last five years how many inspections by DMP staff visiting the Mt Percy tailings dam have taken place, and why on each occasion excessive erosion of the external batters has not been detected or seen in inspections?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?
- (7) Can the Minister explain why the DMP allowed KCGM to attempt rehabilitation of the Mt Percy Tailings dam without topsoil being utilized as require as part of the previous tenement conditions?
- (8) If no to (7), why not?
- (9) Will the DMP direct and instruct KCGM to immediately rehabilitate the Mt Percy Tailings dam utilising topsoil of 500mm to cover the embankments, including the scarification or ripping with seed?
- (10) If no to (9), why not?
- (11) Can the Minister indicate the specific last date on which the Mt Percy tailings dam was functional and operational with the deposition of tailings?
- (12) If no to (11), why not?

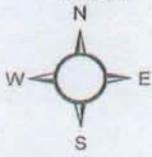
Hon NORMAN MOORE replied:

- (1) Yes. [See paper 2942.]
- (2) Not applicable
- (3) No
- (4) I am advised by the Department of Mines and Petroleum that the scale and nature of the erosion does not warrant an immediate direction being given to KCGM. The rehabilitation of these areas of erosion will be addressed in accordance with the KCGM Mine Closure Plan.
- (5) Environmental officers of DMP have inspected the Mt Percy tailings storage facility on one occasion in the last five years. This inspection was undertaken in December 2010. Inspections are carried out on the basis of a risk assessment approach to ensure that resources are appropriately targeted. This includes that inspections are considered when concerns are raised regarding the operation of mine sites.
- (6) Not applicable
- (7) I am advised that there is insufficient topsoil available to rehabilitate all disturbed areas under the current control of KCGM. The only practical alternative is to prioritise the usage of topsoil for rehabilitation of the KCGM operations. This means that some areas will not have topsoil applied in favour of other areas. This is the case regarding the Mt Percy tailings storage facility.
- (8) Not applicable
- (9) No
- (10) See answer to question (7). This activity would not facilitate rehabilitation of the site and has the potential to cause excessive runoff of topsoil from the batter slopes.
- (11) I am advised that the Mt Percy tailings storage facility was last operated for the disposal of tailings in May 1997.
- (12) Not applicable.



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Author: NGF
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★ Locations of excessive erosion

KCGM - Mt Percy TSF

