

Mine Will Reopen

Stringent controls over effluent from a proposed re-activation of the Sunro copper mine near Jordan River are established in a permit issued this week.

The mine, which will be operated by Dison Development Ltd., had earlier been refused a pollution control permit that would allow it to discharge up to 1 million gallons per day of mine tailings effluent into the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Following an appeal, the decision was overturned by the B.C. Pollution Control Board which then instructed William Venables, director of pollution control, to issue a permit subject to conditions he saw fit to impose.

Major change in the permit issued is that the tailings will

be allowed to discharge at a minimum depth of 40 feet below low tide line and the pipeline will have to reach approximately 1,500 feet into the strait.

The company had earlier proposed that it be allowed to discharge only a few feet below the low tide line.

Issuing the permit, Venables also ordered that the discharge pipe be moved almost 2,000 feet to the west of the location originally proposed by the firm. The change will mean the pipe will emerge on the opposite side of the small bay into which Dison had planned to discharge.

Venables also made significant alterations in the quality of the effluent Dison will be allowed to discharge. Changes include a maximum of .1 part per million (ppm) cyanide as compared with the 1 ppm the firm had been asking; and a

maximum copper content of .05 ppm as compared with 5 ppm requested.

Other conditions of the permit are as follows:

- Dison must post a \$12,000 security bond with the board within six months, or before it begins to discharge, to ensure that conditions are met.

- The company must have an independent agent, approved by Venables, to conduct a continuing monitoring program;

- Prior to the start of discharge Dison must conduct a thorough underwater study of the proposed discharge area;

- An emergency tailings pond must be constructed and maintained and operation of the mill must cease instantly in case of malfunction in the discharge operation; and