

# Island mine discharge disallowed by official

A mining company's application to discharge up to one million gallons of mill tailings into the Strait of Juan de Fuca near Jordan River on Vancouver Island has been rejected by William Venables, B.C.'s director of pollution control.

The application was made by Dison Development Ltd., the company which has been developing the Sunro mine (formerly operated by Cowichan Copper Co. Ltd.) for production.

Venables was not available for comment Tuesday but his office in Victoria said letters

had been mailed to Dison and other interest parties, including Crownex International Ltd., which owns Dison, and Pechiney Development Ltd., a France-based company which has undertaken to provide financing for production, subject to the tailings permit.

Charles E. Campbell of Vancouver, general manager of Dison, said, "We are trying to get an appointment with Mr. Venables to find out the basis of his refusal and to discuss the situation with him."

"Pechiney has spent \$500,000 so far to rehabilitate the mine and had undertaken to provide \$2.75 million for equipment and working capital. Because of delays in our application we have reduced the crew but we'll now have to lay off the rest and stop work. The mine would provide about 100 jobs in production."

The company has right to appeal to the B.C. Pollution Control Board from the director's decision.

Campbell said that Pechiney had assumed the responsibility of obtaining the permit from the pollution board but that, with the director's refusal, this responsibility reverts to Crownex.

He said the application was made first in December and it took until March 3 to receive an endorsement from the Capital regional district that no local bylaws were violated. Nearly six months has elapsed until the present announcement.

Dison's application was opposed by some Jordan River residents, conservationists, commercial fishermen and others.

James McCrossen, public relations officer in the pollution control branch, said recommendations were received from the departments of recreation and conservation, also health services and hospital insurance.

The old Cowichan Copper mine intermittently between 1962 and 1966 dumped tailings off a shoreline cliff half a mile from Jordan River community.

Dison, after studies by oceanographers, proposed piping the tailings 600 feet farther east and discharging

them from an outlet just below low-tide level.

Campbell said he believed alternate methods of disposal, such as impounding the tailings, were impractical because they would have to be located on the B.C. Hydro right-of-way or close to Jordan River community.

## Jamieson sees B.C. STOL link

### Province News Services

PARIS — Transport Minister Jamieson of Canada said here today that a Victoria-Vancouver STOL (short take-off and landing plane) service should follow shortly after a STOL service connects downtown Ottawa and Montreal.

This service, employing six or more de Havilland twin-Otter 14-seat turboprop planes, will cut travel time to less than half an hour between Montreal and Ottawa, he said, and should begin late next year or early in 1973.

Air Canada will operate it. Jamieson, who spoke at the Canadian pavilion at the Paris International Air Show, said he has had talks with U.S. Transportation Secretary Volpe on the possibility of opening a Toronto-Cleveland line.

He said, "We feel we have a technology advantage in this field."

But he said at a press conference that foreign control of Canada's aircraft construction industry is the major problem to be overcome in moving ahead with building of STOL aircraft.

The two main plane builders in Canada are British-controlled The de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. and U.S.-controlled Canadair Ltd.

Jamieson spoke of the government's wish to see a "rationalization" of the industry

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