



October 31, 2014

Ms. Tracey Braun
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Environmental Approvals Branch
123 Main Street, Suite 160, Union Station
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1A5

Ms. Braun,

Re: Vale Manitoba Operations, Noise Abatement Plan

We acknowledge that this plan has been delayed in getting to your department. At the time a noise abatement plan was requested, in response to noise complaints received from the community, we were gathering baseline noise data in the community and at our T-1 and T-3 mine sites, and we wanted to gather robust, representative data across a meaningful period of time.

Noise Monitoring Program

Vale has carried out a number of activities relating to noise monitoring to date:

- During the months of February and May Vale personnel used a noise dosimeter to monitor environmental noise levels at 10 different locations in the community. Five minute averages were measured at each location along with date, time, weather conditions, activity in the area and mine activity.
- During the months of June and July, noise dosimeters were placed at ten private residences scattered throughout the community. Four residences were in the areas where noise complaints have been reported. Environmental noise levels were monitored for an eight hour period, 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. Date, time, weather conditions, activity in the area and mine activity were recorded.
- A total of 13 different days were monitored in the community between February and the end of July. Monitoring took place during days with different weather conditions.
- During the months of January, July and September we monitored the noise levels in close proximity to the fresh air raises, return air raises and compressor building.

As a result of the noise monitoring data and noise complaint information, we are able to determine a specific weather pattern that exists when most noise complaints are received, overcast (low ceiling) with winds out of the east north east. Wind direction, in Thompson during the summer months, are generally out of the southwest and out of the northwest during winter months.

To date in 2014, we have received four noise complaints from the community. In September of this year Vale advertised and hosted an open house in the Thompson Regional Community Centre Surveys were handed out at the open house to the general public, and were delivered to every home in Thompson, which asked for comments/concerns about our operations. In total, 249 survey responses were received, with only one commenting on fan noise. The number of noise complaints have dropped since the initial concern was raised by community members.

Noise Abatement Plan

Moving forward, Vale intends to:

- Raise an engineering request with our engineering department to investigate noise reduction options for the operations. The investigation into options will be completed by April 30/15;
- Continue with the noise monitoring program;
- Continue to track and respond to complaints or concerns within the community;
- Set-up a quarterly review with Manitoba Conservation and Stewardship, to include the local MCWS lead and Vale representatives, to discuss ongoing issues, projects and concerns (to include noise monitoring and abatement);
- Continue to communicate with the community to raise awareness and understanding of the noise and the related regulations;
- Review successful noise abatement projects that may have application for Thompson; and,
- Review our engineering standards in light of the outcomes of the engineering request and ongoing monitoring.

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to call.

Regards,



Dave McDonald B.Sc.
Senior Supervisor, Environment
Safety, Health & Environment

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