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KCGM Media Release
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\$25,000 penalty for 2006 leak

KCGM was yesterday [Editors Note: 23 Jan 08] issued a Modified Penalty Notice of \$25,000 under the Environmental Protection Act (1986) (Section 99B) for an environmental incident on site in February 2006. The incident resulted in the leak of process (saline) water, onto an adjoining lease held by Optimum Resources.

In providing the modified penalty, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) noted KCGM's prompt notification to the authorities, the moderate impact of the incident and the quick response in acting to contain and remedy the leak.

"When the event occurred KCGM was extremely disappointed, and we worked quickly to rectify the situation. However, we work in a tight regulatory environment, and we have to accept the penalty when we have not met all the requirements," said KCGM General Manager, Russell Cole.

The leak was first noticed by KCGM on Monday 27 Feb 2006. The regulatory authorities and the adjoining lease holder were promptly notified, and KCGM cooperated fully with the government investigations.

Potential effects of this saline water were reduced by substantial runoff from a rainfall event not long after the leak was found. Other constituents such as cyanide, were well below any level of concern for health and environmental standards. It is thought that the leak came from a secondary containment pond below maintenance dredging work that was being carried out in a pond within the Fimiston Plant.

After finding the leak, KCGM implemented a number of improvement measures focussed on water containment ponds and rehabilitation.

***For further information please call
KCGM Community Relations Manager
Danielle van Kampen on 0409 104 613.***