Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant Start Up

As you may be aware, Red Dog Operations is currently commissioning a new water treatment system. The system will use Reverse Osmosis and Microfiltration to produce clean water that can be discharged into Red Dog Creek. Reverse Osmosis (RO) is commonly used to purify the bottled drinking water sold in supermarkets.

Over the last 2 years we have seen an increase in naturally occurring Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) upstream in Red Dog and Ikalukroq Creeks, leading to our stopping discharge in order to maintain compliance with our permit limits as the natural TDS levels in the creeks were themselves above what Red Dog would be allowed to discharge. This has resulted in excess water that must be stored onsite.

The RO system produces very clean water which can be discharged even when the creeks have very high natural TDS. This helps to reduce the amount of water stored onsite.

On Wednesday August 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM discharge from the RO plant commenced. The plant can treat and discharge up to 1,000 gallons per minute and is anticipated to run into October or when freezing creek conditions necessitates the plant to stop.