

April 28, 2003

Mr H McBride, PEng, Deputy Director, Professional Ethics
Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
200-4010 Regent Street
Burnaby, BC V5C 6N2

Your File : S/02-118

Dear Mr McBride,

Subscribers to the *National Post* know who detected that Bre-X was a salting scam and when, but few are aware that the same mineral sampling expert was retained by the Kaufman inquiry. Incidentally, the newspaper article to which you refer appeared in the *National Post* on September 30, 2002, and it was one of your members who wrote to NP's Editor in October 2002. That letter was passed on to the Editor of *The Northern Miner*, in which it was published in the November 4-10, 2002, issue, and my rebuttal appeared in the December 2-8, 2002, issue (copies enclosed).

I am an internationally recognized authority on the sampling and weighing of bulk solids such as coals, concentrates and ores as a basis for settlements between trading partners. Since 1974 I have taught seminars and workshops on sampling and statistics all over the world. I wrote textbooks and scores of papers on popular and unpopular subjects alike. I travel not much anymore, and enjoy semi-retirement explaining how geostatistics inflates mineral inventories, and why authorities and professional associations ought to fulfill their duty to mining investors. I do not have now, nor did I ever have, a website to offer "*metallurgical and mining consulting services*" in BC. More than thirty years of participation in ISO Technical Committees have established a worldwide reputation as an expert in sampling and the application of statistical methods, and ensured that those who require my services know how to contact me.

I am honored by your invitation to join BC's professional geoscientists, and would have proudly accepted in the early 1990s. Of late, I am quite preoccupied with my crusade against geostatistics, a crusade of particular interest to those entrusted with professional ethics and duties to the public. Contact me at merksmatrix@telus.net for an explanation why geostatistics is a fatally flawed variant of classical statistics,.

Yours truly,

J W Merks
President