

*Please publish my name and location along with my comments.*

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Re: The Raven Coal Mine proposal draft AIR

Like many others, I have spent many hours pouring through the various versions of the draft AIR and other available information on the proposed Raven Coalmine. Now is one of those rare moments when the public can have its say. Most of the public neither has the time nor the background to make any meaningful commentary on this tome. It is basically a listing of what the proponent believes it needs to do to get the government stamp to go ahead with this project. The public consultation on this may serve to show the proponent some of the inadequacies in the proposal so that he/she may fill in the holes or cover them over. There is nothing in terms of detail to comment on except for the most technical of people. We, the public, are not privvy to a mountain of background information that is not in the document. Therefore, specific, detailed comments are very difficult at best. It is possible to discern general areas which are ignored or inadequately covered.

I therefore call for a Joint Federal/Provincial Independent Expert Environmental Review Panel with full public hearings to determine whether this proposed mine should go beyond this pre-planning stage. A basic prerequisite must be a complete regional aquifer mapping and modelling.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Fyson PhD

*I am a biologist with a BA in Botany from Oxford University, a PhD in Plant Physiology, several post docs in soil microbiology and 17 years working in Canada and Germany cleaning up mine sites using natural processes. I am currently Lands Manager for the Denman Conservancy Association on Denman Island across Baynes Sound from the proposed Raven mine site. I am also on the technical committee of the Comox Valley Coalwatch.*