

Comox Valley Environmental Council - Courtenay, British Columbia

COMOX VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

**Representing over 1400 individuals in 18 environmentally concerned
community organizations.**

P.O. Box 3356, Courtenay BC, V9N 5N5



L. Peterson, Chair, 250-338-8675.

, D. Lacelle, Secretary,

June 26 2011

Dear Sirs,

The Comox Valley Environment Council is a 19 year old group consisting of representatives from 18 local environmental groups. We meet with local elected officials about seven times a year.

The Council has expressed concern (via letter) twice in the recent past about the potential environmental effects of the proposed Raven coal mine near Buckley Bay.

The Council continues to have concerns with both surface and groundwater issues in the area around the proposed Raven minesite.

Specifically, the Council has concerns about water quality in Cowie Creek, and its 'sister' creek, Cougar Smith Creek. The proposed tailings pond for the minesite will flow into a tributary of Cowie Creek, and both creeks flow into Baynes sound, an important shellfish area, and an internationally recognised Important Bird Area. It is crucial that these areas are not polluted by minewaters.

There are other concerns regarding surface subsistence, pollution of groundwater, seasonal flow variations, and disturbance by mine access roads around the Tsable River.

While many specific concerns are presented in the Draft AIR report (pages 75 to 95), the council doubts that sufficient mitigation effects currently exist, and also believes that the possibility of long term environmental damages occurring is sufficiently real, that we cannot support the project, nor the Draft AIR at this time.

Sincerely,

L. Peterson, Chair CVEC.
