

REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS' COMOX VALLEY CHAPTER TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS OF THE PROPOSED RAVEL COAL MINE  
June 14, 2011

Dear Rachel Shaw and Andrew Rollo:

First, we would like to acknowledge your commitment to this process and your perseverance at countless hours of meetings.

Since I was not able to stay at the Courtenay meeting until my name was called, we are sending this submission. Our Chapter is opposed to the development of this coal mine for many reasons, including the following:

1. **WATER:** Mining uses an inordinate amount of water, and the discarded pollutants contaminate the earth and the aquifers. This leads to contaminated streams and eventually the ocean.  
Water is a precious and limited resource and should not be wasted in these processes.
2. **SHELLFISH FISHERY:** The contaminated ocean waters will affect the marine life disastrously. Any clean-up would take years of recovery. In the meantime, the loss of the sea life and the loss of the fisher' livelihoods will be monumental.
3. **AIR QUALITY:** The coal dust will affect the human, animal and bird population of the Comox Valley and all the way to Port Alberni.
4. **ROAD CONDITIONS:** Since many heavy trucks are planned to take coal from the Comox Valley to Port Alberni, the roads and traffic will be overly taxed.
5. **Harbour Conditions in Port Alberni:** The dredging of the harbor and the passage of huge barges will impact negatively on the newly developing eco-tourism industry. In addition, the building of a coal storage facility in a Tsunami zone seems counter-productive at best.
6. **JOBS:** The coal mine jobs for twenty years would be cancelled out by the loss of the shellfish industry jobs for well beyond twenty years.
7. **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:** There have already been many community meetings about the proposed coal mine, and the vast majority of residents have stated loudly and clearly that they do not want this Raven Coal mine.
8. **The Comox Valley Water Watch and Coal Watch** have done a very good service in the community by researching all of the facts. They have been assisted by the Watershed Sentinel

group of researchers. The local Chapter of the Council of Canadians supports and endorses their opposition to Raven Coal.

WE, THUS, RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

- A. THAT A JOINT FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL REVIEW TAKE PLACE;
- B. THAT COMPREHENSIVE AQUIFER MAPPING AND MODELING OF THE FULL RAVEN TENURE BE DONE;
- C. THAT THE BEAR PROJECT BE INCLUDED BECAUSE OF THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF THAT PROJECT ON BAYNES SOUND.

In closing we would like to mention that our Council of Canadians' Chair, Maude Barlow, who was the consultant to the United Nations on water, knows that in the Global South/Third World there are many examples of governments which have allowed companies to pollute their land and water. We, on Vancouver Island, do not want to be another example added to that list.

Submitted by  
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