

Diane L. Sampson - Bowser, British Columbia



Nile Creek Enhancement Society

15th June, 2011

Environmental Assessment Office
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1

Attention: Rachel Shaw

Re: Raven Underground Coal Project

Nile Creek Enhancement Society's Board of Directors and members would like to put forward our concerns regarding the above proposed coal project. Over the last more than fifteen years, we have spent a lot of money and volunteer effort restoring Nile Creek in Bowser. Our restoration efforts continue with the restoration of Bull kelp, mapping and monitoring highly valuable eelgrass beds and current data collection and future restoration of six other area creeks for the benefit of salmonid species and the creeks' supporting watersheds.

Our goals are for the restoration, enhancement and protection of not just the fresh water streams, but the marine waters of the Salish Sea and the ecosystems that exist within both. Baynes Sound and neighbouring waters, all part of the Salish Sea, would be greatly affected by the proposed project.

Based on the strong potential for harm to the local and adjacent ecosystems, the watershed, and to the shellfish industry and tourism, which supports our local economy, our group strongly recommends:

1. a joint federal/provincial independent expert Panel Review with full public hearings enabling the public to have experts present their views;
2. a call for the most comprehensive review, including aquifer mapping and modeling of the full Raven tenure, interaction between all ground and surface waters and their relationship to Baynes Sound; and,
3. that the above recommendations are used for all projects that have the same potential impacts.

Respectfully,

Diane L. Sampson, President
Nile Creek Enhancement Society