

From: Robert Fox & Margaret Fraser [mailto:fraser_fox@yahoo.com]
Sent: September-06-10 1:26 PM
To: Raven@ceaa-acee.gc.ca
Cc: info@coalwatch.ca; DenmanOpposesCoal@gmail.com
Subject: Opposition to Coal

Monday, September 6, 2010

Re: Project # - CEAR#10-03-055529

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of The Comox Valley and Denman Island, a Baynes Sound Shellfish Farmer, and having just retired from a career as B.C. Ambulance Paramedic I am writing to advise you that I strongly oppose any form of Coal mining, shipping, or use whatsoever.

Our planet is rapidly running out of essential resources such as clean air, clean water, arable soil, and benevolent climates due in large measure to their destruction through misuse, mismanagement, and pollution. The driver of this bankrupt approach to stewardship is a flawed theory of economics that regards them as externalities. (an externality (or transaction spillover) is a cost or benefit, not transmitted through prices) Curiously, when access to a basic element such as water can be controlled for the purpose of creating wealth directly such as for human consumption it becomes a licensable commodity. Why then is it not possible to quantify the amount of water used in the mining process and then polluted as a result of its extraction, transporting, and use? Current public utility rates would be a reasonable basis for such charges.

That however is not the crux of my argument against this resource extraction. Pollution and its causes are well understood in 2010 and there is no excuse for ignoring its effects both generally as degraded environments and specifically in human disease pathologies. Our hospital wards are overflowing with cancer victims, asthmatics, and cardio pulmonary disease sufferers to name a few categories. Their treatments and ongoing care are a direct cost of the polluted world we've created and the productivity loss they represent is staggering in economic terms alone. We cannot afford to perpetuate these externalities a moment longer; not financially, not socially, not environmentally, and certainly not morally.

Raven Coal Mines sole criteria for existence is financial. Considering that it will create far more costs to the Comox Valley, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada and the world than it is prepared or capable to cover it should not be allowed to proceed with its Vancouver Island Coal Mine Project. The public cannot afford to pay for the externalities generated by Raven Coal Mines.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Fox
Denman Island, B.C.