



September 20, 2010

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment
Environment Canada
Les Terrasses de la Chaudiere
North Tower, 28th Floor
10 Wellington Street Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Sent via email: Raven@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Dear Honourable Minister,

I am writing to you to express our deep concern regarding possible adverse effects of the Raven Underground Coal Project (CEAR reference number 10-03-55529).

This area has had a long history of coal mines. Toxic substances from the slag heaps are still leeching into local streams and Baynes Sound. There is also great concern among local residents about dangers to the aquifers from which they draw their waters. In addition, the Comox Valley is a well-known tourist destination and a preferred location for many retirees. The Raven Coal Mine and other proposed mines in the area will radically change the nature and character of this region.

I am therefore requesting:

1. That you refer the environmental assessment of Compliance Coal Corporation's proposed Raven Underground Coal Project to a joint federal/provincial independent expert Review Panel for full public hearings (CEAR reference number 10-03-55529).
2. That Minister Penner (BC Minister of the Environment) ensure that the environmental assessment of the project is carried out by the same joint federal/provincial independent expert Review Panel conducting full public hearings.
3. That before any further consideration is given to the proposed project, comprehensive aquifer mapping and modeling of the entire Raven coal tenure be completed – and fully publicly vetted. The 3100 hectare Raven tenure includes all or significant portions of the watersheds of Cowie/Cougar Smith Creek, Tsable River, Wilfred (Coal) Creek, and Hindoo Creek which flow into Baynes Sound. It is essential that the hydrology and dynamics of these surface water systems and their interactions with groundwater be understood.

I thank you for considering and acting upon my request.

Yours truly,

Mike Bell

Mike Bell, Chairperson
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