



Things You Ought to Know About The Raven Underground Coal Project

What is it?

- The proposed Raven Coal mine is owned by Comox Joint Venture (CJV): 60% Compliance Coal Corp (a subsidiary of Compliance Energy Corp), 20% I-Comox Coal Inc., a subsidiary of Itochu Corp (Japan), and 20% LG International Investments (Canada) Ltd., a subsidiary of LG Corp (Korea).
- Raven's private coal tenure covers 3100 ha (7660 acres) of land. It is a private tenure and the company states that there are no mining taxes payable.
- The coal processing facilities will cover 200 ha (500 acres).
- The mine will produce approximately 1.9 million tonnes (mt) of coal/year for 16 years, of which 0.8 mt will be shipped to markets, and 1.1 mt will remain as toxic-producing waste.
- The coal would be mined by underground room-and-pillar method, meaning the mined material is extracted across a horizontal plane while leaving pillars of untouched material to support the roof and large open "rooms" underground.

Environmental Impacts

- The Raven mine would emit 127,500m³ of methane/day. Methane is 21 times more damaging than CO₂.
- The mine will generate millions of tonnes of waste rock. The massive waste rock piles will cause acid mine drainage, which can contain arsenic, cadmium, selenium, and mercury.
- Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel on the planet. When coal is used, whether for generating electricity or making steel, millions of tonnes of CO₂ will be released into the atmosphere, greatly contributing to global climate change.
- The coal will be shipped to Asia. If the coal were used in British Columbia, a carbon tax of \$58/mt would be applied, but because it is being exported, no carbon tax is applied, even though we all suffer the consequences of climate change.
- Salmon, cutthroat trout, and herring populations are at risk of disappearing from Cowie Creek, the Tsable River, and Hindoo Creek.
- Baynes Sound is home to a thriving shellfish industry. The Raven mine could permanently shut down this sustainable industry, which employs more than 500 local people. Very small increases in pollution from the mine can make the shellfish in Baynes Sound unfit to eat – thus killing the shellfishery without actually killing the shellfish.
- Baynes Sound is an Important Bird Area (IBA program) in British Columbia. Toxins released by acid mine drainage will significantly impact the local bird populations.
- In order to accommodate the huge Panamax freighters coming into Port Alberni, approximately 2.5 metres would have to be dredged from the bottom of the harbour, which contains massive amounts of toxins (including dioxins) released by the pulp mill in the past. Currently, these are held inert by a fibre mat. Disturbing this fibre mat and dispersing the toxins would have a devastating effect on local salmon and trout (cutthroat and steelhead) runs, as well as to the 160 bird species that use the Somass estuary.
- Coal dust is toxic. Port Alberni has frequent air inversions and has been declared as one of the poorest locations in Canada for diluting and dispersing airborne pollutants.
- In a scathing review of the BC Environmental Assessment Office, BC Auditor General, John Doyle roundly criticized the organisation for approving projects but not ensuring that follow up inspections to ensure that permit conditions had been followed.

Effects on Water

- The Raven mine will be located in the heart of the watershed above Baynes Sound.
- The proponent has not mapped the aquifers that will be impacted by the mine. This means the **proponent does not know what will happen to local drinking water and cannot guarantee that it will remain**

unaffected by the mine. There is a strong possibility of the aquifer being irreversibly damaged both in quantity and quality by the coal mine.

- The Quinsam Coal Mine located near Campbell River has a settling pond beside Long Lake. Currently, arsenic levels in Long Lake are 630 ppm, more than 30 times acceptable levels. Dr. William Cullen, a respected scientist, stated the high arsenic levels were caused by the mine.
- The proponent has yet to tell the public how much water will be used, how waste water from the mine will be dealt with, or how the watershed will be protected.

Transportation

- The coal would be transported by huge 42 tonne B-train trucks from the Inland Island Highway at Buckley Bay to Hwy 4, through Cathedral Grove, over “the Hump,” and down a main city street to the waterfront of Port Alberni
- There will be 6 trips/hour, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week for 16 years. A total of 838,656 trips (coming and going) on a dangerous and winding two-lane highway.

Economic Impacts

- The shellfish industry in Baynes Sound currently employs over more than 500 people. The Raven mine could destroy this sustainable food-producing industry.
- Taxpayers would bear increased costs to repair the highway, as well as roads in Port Alberni.
- Tourism and commercial and recreational fishing would be significantly jeopardised. These are important to the economic sustainability of towns needing to diversify their local economies, such as Port Alberni.
- There would be increased health care costs due to increased toxins and other pollutants in air and water.
- BC taxpayers have historically spent hundreds of millions of dollars remediating environmental damage caused by mines.
- BC taxpayers are paying \$328,000 for training for underground mining at North Island College for a program the majority of citizens in the Comox Valley are opposed to.

Public Safety

- Nearly half of the route from Buckley Bay to Port Alberni is over a winding two-lane highway. The high number of heavy B-train trucks will further imperil drivers on an already dangerous route.
- Accidents on the Alberni Highway can cut off Port Alberni, Tofino, and Ucluelet from the rest of Vancouver Island.
- Cathedral Grove is a highly congested area during the summer months. Increased truck traffic will make pulling in and out of the parking lot even more dangerous.
- Port Alberni is one of the few cities in Canada without a dedicated truck route. The large B-train trucks would rumble through residential areas and through downtown to reach the coal port.
- These trucks are not required to pass through Ministry of Transportation Inspection Stations or weigh scales. Trucks could be overloaded and unsafe.
- Coal dust is highly explosive, creating new risks that miners or port workers could be killed or seriously injured. Fires could start in coal seams, which could burn for years.

Thin Edge of the Wedge

- In addition to the Raven coal mine in Fanny Bay, the CJV is also planning to develop the Bear Deposit, an open pit mine within sight of Cumberland and above the water supply of Cumberland and the Comox Valley. Earlier posts from CJV also showed the Anderson mine, to be located at the base of Mt Washington, with tenures of 2137 acres (this was removed from their website for reasons unknown).
- The CJV owns 29,000 ha of coal properties centered in the Comox Valley and intends to investigate every economic opportunity with that coal.
- Compliance Energy Corp. also owns the rights to coalbed methane in the same 29,000 ha on Vancouver Island. Coalbed methane development industrialises the landscape and requires fracking, which has even greater and more certain damaging impacts on water than coal mining.

SAY NO TO RAVEN COAL!

CoalWatch Comox Valley

For more information, visit www.coalwatch.ca, email info@coalwatch.ca