

Don Travers - Tofino, British Columbia



June 20, 2011

Rachel Shaw, Project Assessment Manager
& Andrew Rollo, Federal Environmental Project Assessment Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Via email to raven@ceaa-acec.gc.ca

RE: Compliance Coal Corporation's proposed Raven Underground Coal Mine Project

Dear Ms. Shaw and Mr. Rollo:

The board of directors of the Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce passed a unanimous resolution recently to request that Tofino and the communities of the west coast of Vancouver Island be included in the spatial boundary of the study area for the environmental assessment associated with the proposed Raven Underground Coal Mine Project. We make this request for a number of reasons, outlined below.

First, as Port Alberni is being considered as a terminal option for the proponents, we stress that Highway 4 is the main and only artery for traffic to and from the west coast. We depend almost entirely on this route for all of our goods, emergency and other services, as well as the transportation of residents and visitors to our area. The proposed project could significantly impact our only transportation option by adding significant traffic levels to the highway to and from Port Alberni. The Raven site alone would contribute and estimated 40-60 double B-train trucks to this route on a daily basis, operating 24 hours. As you may know, several portions of Hwy 4 along the route in question are single-lane traffic only, and additional traffic will have an effect on travel times. This will impact residents, visitors and services to the west coast. Any additional future mine sites would have a cumulative impact on Hwy 4.

Our organization's second concern with the proposed project relates to the potential dredging of Port Alberni harbour, as this action has the potential to disturb the dioxin mat at the base of the harbour deposited over the years by the mill. We feel the release of these toxins could negatively impact Barkley and Clayoquot Sound, as well as the waters around Port Alberni.

Further, we echo other regional stakeholders in their call for an expert review panel with full public hearings to be tabled in connection with this proposed project. Such a review would allow for experts from the proponents, the governments, and regional stakeholders to be heard.

Our board is tasked with representing the interests of our members, as they relate to the overall business and social climate in our area. This project has the potential to have a great impact on our region, and as such we should be included in the decision process.

Thank-you for your attention to this request and we await your response.

Don Travers,
President, TLBCC

Cc. John Snyder, Coal Watch Comox Valley Society
Mayor John Fraser and Council, District of Tofino
MLA Scott Fraser, Alberni-Qualicum
MP Dr. James Lunney, Nanaimo-Alberni
Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Dr. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

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