



**WESTMORELAND COAL COMPANY – *Coal Valley Mine***

**ROBB TEND -Project Description  
Updated February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Prepared for:  
**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 and the request for supplemental information received from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Coal Valley Resources Inc. (CVRI) submits the following Robb Trend Project (the Project) updates:

- Corporate Profile and Contact Information
- Project Description
- Project Schedule

As described in the information request (IR) this document and specified files are being submitted to provide for appropriate and complete information upon appointment of the Joint Review Panel (JRP) specific to the Project. The IR clearly states for Project Description CVRI shall provide “any changes to the project’s components, since the EIA was submitted to the ERCB, Alberta Environment and Water and CEAA in April 2012”.

## 2.0 CORPORATE PROFILE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Westmoreland Coal Company (WCC) purchased CVRI from Sherritt Coal in December of 2013. CVRI, now a Subsidiary of WCC, is proposing to continue operations of the CVM by developing coal resources in the Project area.

### **Coal Valley Resources, Inc. (CVRI)**

#### **A Subsidiary of Westmoreland Coal Company**

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## **2.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project Description has not been modified since the April 2012 EIA submission.

The proposed Project is an expansion to the existing mining and coal processing activities at the Coal Valley Mine (CVM). The existing infrastructure, processing plant and resources currently in place for the operation of the CVM will be extended to the Project.

The Project is adjacent to existing mining operations and was initially disclosed to the public in 2006. CVRI's resource estimate for the Project area indicates that it would release approximately 174 million tonnes of raw coal for processing yielding approximately 87 million clean metric tonnes (CMT) available for sale. This tonnage would provide CVRI with the necessary resources to operate and provide regional employment opportunities until 2038.

## **2.2 PROJECT LOCATION**

The Project Location and Regional Setting have not changed since the April 2012 EIA submission.

The Project's setting and the existing CVM are located within the Rocky Mountain Foothills physiographic region in west-central Alberta (Pettapiece, 1986). Attachments **RT.15-IR#1A** regional maps delineating the regional setting associated with the Project.



The Project area is approximately 100 km south-west of Edson, Alberta in an area where several mines (surface and underground) were operated earlier in the 1900s. The Project area is greater than 200km east of Jasper National Park gates. Attachment **RT.15-IR#1C** delineates the Project area to the existing CVM.

The Project extends nearly 50 km from the Pembina River, past the community of Robb and incorporates leases on the northwest side of Highway 47. **RT.15-IR#1C** displays the Project as it relates to the town site of Robb.

The western portion of the Project (Robb West) is drained by the Embarras River and its tributaries. The Erith River and its tributaries run through the middle portion of the proposed mining area (Robb Centre and Robb Main). The south-eastern tip of the Project area (Robb East) drains to the Pembina River system. Other watercourses that occur within the Project development area include Bryan Creek, Hay Creek, Bacon Creek, Halpenny Creek, Lendrum Creek, and Lund Creek.

### **3.0 PROJECT SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION**

#### PROJECT SCHEDULE

The current Project schedule details the submission of the required approvals under the *Water Act*, *EPEA* and *Coal Conservation Act* to occur late in Q4 2016 or early Q1 2016. The Project Schedule is included as **RT.15-IR#1D**

If the current schedule is executed then full production is expected to be reached by 2018 with all mine equipment relocated into the Project area. Full production is expected to continue until 2034 when annual production rates slowly decline as the remaining reserve area is completed. The life of the CVM, based on the remaining reserves within the Project area and currently licensed mining areas, is 2038, an operating life of 25 years.

Mining operations is currently anticipated to begin at the Erith Corridor commencing in Robb Main, then moving in a generally south eastern direction to Robb Center and completing with the mining of Robb East and Robb West. Specific sequencing of mining activities will be determined



following completion of drilling activities and will be included in future License Applications anticipated for submission Q1 / Q2 2016.

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project information has been updated since the April 2012 submission of the EIA. The information was submitted in response to Supplemental Information Requests (SIR's) during the EIA review period. The updated Concordance Table, **RT.15-IR#2**, has been included in this submission as required by the IR dated December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

## 4.0 CONSULTATION

### **Aboriginal Consultation**

Aboriginal consultation was initiated in 2008 for the Project. Consultation has been ongoing for over 7 years and the consultation record is complex.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 CEAA announced the Federal Funding Allocated to assist public participation in the Environmental Assessment for the Project. The announcement resulted in the inclusion of additional Aboriginal Groups to the Project Consultation list. The Aboriginal Groups identified by CEAA are:

- Foothills Ojibway First Nation
- Sunchild First Nation
- Samson Cree Nation
- Gunn Métis Local 55
- Horse Lake First Nation
- O'Chiese First Nation
- Stoney First Nation
- Whitefish Lake First Nation
- Ermineskin Cree Nation
- Friends of Michel Society, on behalf of Michel First Nation

This list is not comprehensive an inclusive list and discussion is provided as a separate attachment.



The update to the Aboriginal consultation record has been submitted as **RT.15-IR#3A RT.15-IR#3B**, written summary and Table respectively. To avoid the potential for errors during transcription WCC-CVRI and supporting consulting groups determined that incorporation of the details from the updated Aboriginal consultation record should remain as a stand alone document.

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 WCC will distribute a communication and consultation package to all Aboriginal Groups who have expressed interest in the Project. CEAA will be provided with a copy of the communication.

### **Public Engagement**

Public engagement was initiated in 2008 for the Project. The Public engagement update and record has been submitted under separate file. The file name that provides an update to the Public Engagement is attached as **RT.15-IR#4**.

## **4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

The environmental effects outlined in the EIA submit April 2012 and Supplement information Requests 2012-2014 have been updated and are tracked in the submitted Concordance Table **RT.15-IR#2**. In addition to the Concordance Table WCC-CVRI has included an update to Aquatic Ecology **RT.15-IR#5** as part of this submission.

## **5.0 CHANGES AND IMPACT -ENVIRONMENTAL**

As outlined in IR December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 WCC-CVRI is required to submit an update specific to environmental cumulative effects as they pertain to the Project and requirements under CEAA 2012. . This submission is currently in development and is slated for submission to CEAA end of Q3 2015. It is anticipated that there will progressive updates to this file throughout Q2 and Q3 of 2015.



## **5.1 CHANGES AND IMPACT –ABORIGINAL PEOPLES**

As outlined CEEA 2012 and IR December 9th, 2014 WCC-CVRI is required to submit an update specific to environmental cumulative effects as they pertain to specific Aboriginal Groups and the proposed Project. This submission is currently in development and is slated for submission to CEEA end of Q3 2015.

## **6.0 SUMMARY**

The Project design and planned implementation have not been modified in any substantive way since April 2012. WCC-CVRI anticipate that through the development of additional files to be submitted to CEEA throughout Q1 2015, Alternative Means, Hydrogeology, Cumulative Effects and Accidents and Malfunctions, potential changes to mitigation strategies, operational plans and related plans may be required. The next scheduled submissions are March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and will complete the IR request as detailed in the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 information request.