



Section G

Public Engagement

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G. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

G.1 Introduction & Terms of Reference

Section 3.1 of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Project issued by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) (Appendix 1), specifies the following requirements that must be met in a public engagement program:

3.1 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

- [A] *Describe the concerns and issues expressed by the public and the actions taken to address those concerns and issues, including how public input was incorporated into the Project development, impact mitigation and monitoring;*
- [B] *Describe the concerns and issues expressed by aboriginal communities and the actions taken to address those concerns and issues, including how aboriginal community input was incorporated into the project design, EIA development, impact mitigation, monitoring, and reclamation. Describe consultation undertaken with aboriginal communities and groups with respect to traditional ecological knowledge and potential impacts on current use of land and water resources for traditional purposes.*
- [C] *Describe plans to maintain the public engagement (and Aboriginal Consultation: presented in [Section H](#) of the Application) processes following completion of the EIA report to ensure that the public (and Aboriginal peoples) will have an appropriate forum for expressing their views on the ongoing development, operation and reclamation of the Project;*
- [D] *Describe the efforts to obtain public input and identify concerns with the proposed Project, including public engagement methods, locations, and timing.*

Pursuant to the requirements described in the AER ToR and the CEAA Guidelines for the Project, this section reports on public consultation activities to date including how input from the Public has influenced the Project. This section also describes how information was shared with the Public, types of project information materials distributed, an overview of methods, and a summary of issues and concerns. The section concludes with a description of ongoing and proposed consultation.

Public stakeholders are local government, individuals, or groups with interests that could be affected by the Project and related activities. These include land owners or land-user groups with tenures or interests in the Project area. The stakeholder or public groups identified for consultation on the Project as described in this section do not include Aboriginal groups. Consultation with Aboriginal groups is described in [Section H](#) and in [Appendix 7](#) of the Application.

G.2 Overview

The following provides a summary of key consultation objectives, scope of public engagement, and key activities which have informed the EA process to date.

G.2.1 Objectives

The objectives described here form the basis for the public consultation activities summarized in this Section. Benga has engaged public stakeholders early, often and constructively to provide them with opportunities to meaningfully participate in the project design and environmental assessment.

Benga's public engagement objectives contain the following elements:

- early notification and invitation to dialogue to determine the nature of interests by potentially affected stakeholders;
- accessible information to facilitate meaningful engagement with the public;
- sharing information in an open, respectful and timely manner;
- understanding community values, concerns and viewpoints;
- providing sufficient time to evaluate project information and provide input;
- using an adaptive process to align needs of the Project with needs of the public; and
- transparent results to reflect how input from the public is included through the EIA process.

The public will continue to be provided with multiple opportunities and methods to express their views on the ongoing development, operation and reclamation of the Project.

G.2.2 Scope of Public Engagement

Benga has engaged a wide range of public stakeholders including local governments, local property owners, public service, conservation, wildlife, economic, recreational and other land use groups.

Stakeholders identified for engagement on the Project are summarized in [Table G.2.2-1](#). Additional information about the stakeholders is provided in the Public Consultation Report ([Appendix 6a](#)).

Table G.2.2-1 Identification of Stakeholders	
Stakeholder Category	Key Groups
Local Government	Municipality of Crowsnest Pass
	Municipal District of Ranchland
	Town of Pincher Creek
	Municipal District of Pincher Creek
	District of Sparwood
Communities	Coleman
	Blairmore
	Frank
	Hillcrest
	Bellevue
Other Land Interests	Property owners adjacent to Grassy Mountain
	Grazing leases adjacent to Grassy Mountain
	Trapline holders
Economic and Community Development	Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce
	Crowsnest Pass Communities Futures
	Crowsnest Pass Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee (EDTAC)
	Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce
	Pincher Creek Economic Development Committee
Government Authorities	Alberta Energy Regulator
	Alberta Energy and Sustainable Resources Development
	Alberta Transportation
	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Community Service / Civic Awareness	Crowsnest Museum / Historical Society
	Bellevue Underground Mine
	Crowsnest Cultural and Recreation Society (Can-do)
Social, Health and Emergency	Crowsnest Pass Fire and Rescue

Table G.2.2-1 Identification of Stakeholders	
Stakeholder Category	Key Groups
Services	Crowsnest Pass RCMP
	Crowsnest Pass Emergency Medical Services
Environmental Groups	Crowsnest Pass Conservation Society
	Nature Conservancy of Canada
	Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition
	Alberta Wilderness Association
	Trout Unlimited
Wildlife and Habitat	Hillcrest Fish and Game Protective Association
	Ducks Unlimited Crowsnest Pass
Recreational	Crowsnest Pass Golf Club
	CNP Quad Squad
	United Riders of Crowsnest (UROC)
	Crow Snow Riders
Private Campgrounds	Crowsnest Pass Campgrounds – Passburg District
	Hiawatha Campgrounds – Burmis District
	Lost Lemon Campgrounds – Blairmore
	Crowsnest RV Park – Coleman
	Crowsnest Mountain Resort

G.2.3 Pre-Application Engagement with Public Stakeholders

Public engagement activities include public notices regarding the Project’s public comment periods, distribution of written material, in-person information meetings, PowerPoint presentations, individual and group meetings, walk-in and telephone access to the local (Blairmore) office, information posted on Benga’s website, and media notifications. Pre-application, Benga has hosted six Public Forums and/or Open Houses in Crowsnest Pass to inform the public about the Project, and to both receive and respond to their comments and questions. In addition to the Public Forums / Open Houses, Benga attended a local Trade Show in Blairmore, frequently attends and supports local events, and held numerous meetings with the municipalities in the region, particularly the specialized Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and the Municipal District of Ranchland.

A detailed chronology of consultation activities with each stakeholder group is provided in the Public Consultation Plan ([Appendix 6a](#)). Although the Project is currently in the development stage, Benga actively supports several local initiatives, groups and organizations in order to contribute to a stronger and more vibrant community. A comprehensive list of community investments appears in Public Consultation Report ([Appendix 6a](#)).

Benga is also actively pursuing the development of a Stewardship Program which is intended as a grassroots, collaborative approach to implement protection and enhancement measures for the local aquatic environments associated with westslope cutthroat trout. The foundations of these measures are rooted in the provincial and federal Recovery Plan, of which Benga would like to be a catalyst for implementing for the local watersheds.

G.3. Public Engagement Methods

Benga’s approach to public engagement includes formal and unofficial communication. Information about the Project is shared with stakeholders through newsletters, media, open houses, and community events. A variety of engagement methods allows for a comprehensive understanding of stakeholder concerns and comments, and leads to better outcomes for Benga and stakeholders alike. Further details about methods used are summarized in [Table 3.0-1](#) and described in [Sections G.3.1](#) to [G.3.4](#).

Table G.3.0-1 Summary of Key Community Engagement Activities		
Method	Date	Location
Newsletters	02/2014, 12/2014, 02/22015, 02/2016, and 05/2016	Crowsnest Pass area
Media – local radio, website, print	59 Print Media Articles- 01/15/2013, 01/16/2013, 02/12/2013, 02/15/2013, 09/10/2013, 10/16/2013, 10/22/2013,01/29/2014, 03/13/2014, 03/25/2014, 03/27/2014, 03/30/2014, 08/20/2014, 10/08/2014, 10/22/2014, 10/30/2014, 11/05/2014, 12/16/2014, 12/30/2014, 01/28/2015, 03/11/2015, 04/15/2015, 04/22/2015, 04/29/2015, 05/06/2015, 05/12/2015, 05/13/2015, 05/19/8015, 07/08/2015, 07/22/2015, 07/29/2015 (x3), 09/16/2015, 09/17/2015, 09/22/2015, 09/29/2015, 10/21/2015, 11/04/2015 (x5), 11/12/2015, 11/18/2015 (x2), 12/02/2015, 12/09/2015, 12/10/2015, 12/12/2015 (x2), 01/08/2016, 01/13/2016, 01/27/2016 (x2), 02/10/2016, 02/23/2016, 06/02/2016.	

Table G.3.0-1 Summary of Key Community Engagement Activities

Method	Date	Location
	<p>Benga advertised the availability of the public notice of the Project Description, Proposed Terms of Reference and Draft EIS Guidelines by publishing notices in six newspapers to facilitate public comment periods. The list of newspapers included: Calgary Herald, Edmonton Journal, Lethbridge Herald, Pincher Creek Echo, Crowsnest Pass Herald and the Alberta SweetGrass. Tearsheets for each are provided in Appendix 6b.</p>	
Community Office	Open during business hours to provide walk-in access to Project staff and information	Crowsnest Pass, AB
Meetings with Municipalities	<p>The Public Consultation Report (Appendix 6a) contains a detailed list of meetings and topics discussed with local governments of Crowsnest Pass, Ranchland and Pincher Creek (Town and Municipal District). The following are the dates Benga met with each pertinent municipality.</p> <p>Municipality of Crowsnest Pass – 08/29/2012, 11/14/2012, 10/15/2013, 1/15/2014, 8/12/2014, 09/29/2014, 10/07/2014, 11/25/2014, 12/05/2014, 30/20/2015, 03/31/2015, 04/08/2015, 04/20/2015, 06/18/2015, 06/24/2015, 07/13/2015, 08/04/2015, 09/03/2015, 09/16/2015, 09/30/2015, 10/14/2015, 10/15/2015, 10/25/2015, 10/29/2015, 11/25/2015, 01/16/2016, 03/30/2016, and 05/25/2016.</p> <p>Municipal District of Ranchland- 02/05/2013, 11/04/2014, 03/31/2015, 05/19/2015, 07/07/2015, 09/14/2015, 09/30/2015, 10/29/2015, 12/15/2015, 01/07/2016, and 05/02/2016.</p> <p>Town of Pincher Creek- 04/14/2014, 12/14/2015, and 01/13/2016.</p> <p>Municipal District of Pincher Creek- 03/11/2014, and 12/08/2015.</p> <p>District of Sparwood- 12/30/2015.</p>	<p>Grassy Mountain, AB, Crowsnest Pass, AB</p> <p>Grassy Mountain, AB, MD of Ranchland, AB</p> <p>Pincher Creek, AB</p>
Meetings with individual and stakeholder	The Public Consultation Report contains a detailed list of meetings and topics discussed with individual and stakeholder groups. The following is a high level summary the various	

Table G.3.0-1 Summary of Key Community Engagement Activities		
Method	Date	Location
groups	<p>stakeholders met with:</p> <p>Individual landowners: 139 meetings plus other forms of correspondence</p> <p>Business groups: 11 meetings (Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Committee and Community Futures)</p> <p>Recreational groups: 24 meetings (Quad Squad, Crow Snow Riders, United Riders of Crowsnest, Crowsnest Pass Golf)</p> <p>Conservation groups: 12 meetings (Alberta Wilderness Association, Crowsnest Conservation Society)</p>	
Open Houses and Public Forums	<p>The Public Consultation Report contains a detailed list of open house and public forum meetings and topics discussed with stakeholders on the following dates:</p> <p>Forum 1- 02/06/2013</p> <p>Forum 2- 10/15/2013</p> <p>Forum 3- 05/29/2014</p> <p>Forum 4- 09/30/2014, 10/01/2014</p> <p>Forum 5- 04/25/2015</p> <p>Forum 6 – 29/10/2015</p>	<p>Elks Hall, Blairmore, AB</p> <p>Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex</p> <p>Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex</p> <p>Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex</p> <p>Elks Hall, Blairmore, AB</p> <p>Bellevue, AB.</p>
Community Investments	The Public Consultation Report contains a detailed list of community investments made by Benga	Crowsnest Pass region

G.3.1 Access to Project Staff

The location of the Project office in Blairmore, Alberta allowed Project staff to work on Project planning and also encourage interested people to visit and learn about the Project. The Project office is an important asset in the public engagement program as it supports participation and formal data collection.

The Project office has been able to:

- show that Benga wishes to ensure there is a long-term, responsive and positive relationship established with the community, area residents and land users through access to timely information and responses to their interests, needs or concerns related to the proposed Project;
- demonstrate Project representatives' interest in ensuring that the company is supporting active engagement of residents at the community level;
- provide a community location where residents of Crowsnest Pass and surrounding area can conveniently go to obtain or provide information on the mine application and EIA information;
- provide opportunities for residents to submit their ongoing comments related to interests, concerns and potential needs related to the Project; and
- allow Project representatives to quickly and efficiently respond to any urgent or immediate issues or needs that may be identified.

In order to efficiently manage public engagement activities, Benga selected the program StakeTracker as an engagement management tool to log engagement activities outlined in [Table G.3.0-1](#). This web-based stakeholder management software assists in tracking communications with stakeholders, their groups, relevant land parcels and/or the topic (i.e., comments and specific issues or concerns).

G.3.2 Newsletters

Benga has distributed five Project Newsletters to date, each containing updates and information on Project and community activities ([Appendix 6c](#)). These are intended to enhance awareness of the Project and maximize public participation in the assessment process. Newsletters are distributed by email, post, and in person at open houses, community events and meetings with stakeholders (individual and group) and, going forward, will continue to be distributed on a quarterly basis. In addition to information about the Project, the newsletters provide contact information of key staff and information about regional initiatives such as the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. In addition to newsletters, formal letters are sent to provide topic specific information in response to questions and to advise of changes resulting from stakeholder input.

G.3.3 Media

Table G.3.0-1 outlined the various newspapers that Public Notices were published in local newspapers to advise the public of the AER Public Comment periods related to the Application. Tearsheets of each newspaper's advertisement is provided in [Appendix 6b](#).

Benga provides information to various local and regional media sources that regularly carry coverage of the project. Crowsnest Pass hosts two print media (The Crowsnest Pass Herald and Shootin' the Breeze), one radio station and houses poster boards throughout the community. Benga also maintains its own website with project information and updates. There has been media coverage in print media outside of Crowsnest Pass as Benga reaches out to the communities beyond the Crowsnest Pass area. Information about the Project has been featured in regional broadcast media (CBC Television and Radio); typically highlighting the positive impact the Project will have on the community.

Copies of the provincial AER final TOR, Summary Table, Project Description, as well as the CEAA Project Description, Summary (English and French translation), and CEAA guidelines for the Project are available on the company website or can be obtained by contacting the company contacts in the local Blairmore office. Notices of major regulatory events and information are advertised in local media, including instructions on how to access documents locally and online.

G.3.4 Public Forums and Open Houses

Three public forums and three public open houses have been held to date for the Project. The intention of the three initial public forums were primarily meet and greet, to introduce Benga to the community, and to provide a high level overview of short-term and long-term goals of the company in the Crowsnest Pass area, and the proposed Project. The open houses provided an opportunity to inform people and gather comments on what people felt had to be addressed as part of the Project environmental assessment, application preparation and subsequent mine development. Open house events were consistently supported through:

- attendance of Benga personnel, pertinent environmental and engineering consultant project managers and leaders to help provide context and explain the Project;
- poster boards providing Project information to assist people in learning through words, pictures and graphics;
- a question and answer period (for the last two open houses) to actively and obviously collect comments from participants;
- a survey method to collect and follow-up with specific interests, needs or concerns that may emerge; and

- an exit survey of participants to evaluate the event in terms of applicability of information, participation of Project managers and leaders, any recommended improvements for future similar events and, generally, the success in achieving open house objectives.

To facilitate day time work schedules, each open house took place in the late afternoon and early evening. The three open house events were held in Coleman, Blairmore, and Bellevue, which targeted residents near the location of the Project.

Project staff and consultants encouraged open house participants to view detailed map and Project information and to identify and discuss any interests, needs or issues they might have. A number of methods were used to capture this information from participants so that the information gathered was addressed in the Project application and that any requested follow-up was completed.

During their one-on-one conversations with participants, Project staff and consultants actively solicited and recorded comments either on flip charts posted at each information station or on a contact record form (used particularly when contact information was provided by the open house participant, usually for the purposes of follow-up).

In addition, exit surveys were completed with a sample of the participants who attended each open house. The survey was used to monitor whether or not the open house met participants' needs for information and provided an additional opportunity for them to comment on or identify any additional outstanding interests, needs or issues.

Advertising of these events was conducted through posters, print media, radio broadcast, and an email distribution list. Information pertaining to notifications and Public Forum and Open House materials are provided in [Appendix 6d](#).

First Public Forum – February 06, 2013

Benga conducted the first Public Forum for Project in the community of Blairmore in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta on February 6, 2013.

Approximately 60 people who attended had the opportunity to ask the Executive Chair of Riversdale Resources, the Benga Managing Director and President questions about the Grassy Mountain Project. The intention of the public forum was to announce the purchase of the Coal Leases from Devon, indicating that planning of the project was in the early stages. The purpose of the Public Forum was to:

- announce the transaction of the properties and coal leases from Devon Canada to Benga;
- introduce the executives of Benga to the public; and

- outline the early plans for the Grassy Mountain Project.

Second Public Forum – October 15, 2013

Benga conducted the second Public Forum for the Project in the community of Coleman in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta on October 15, 2013.

Approximately 150 people turned out for the Managing Director, CFO and the Operations Manager to address them on the proposed plans for the Project. The purpose of the Public Forum was to provide details on:

- the proposed exploration for the Project;
- commencement of the Environmental Study;
- planned life time of the Project;
- proposed transportation of the finished product; and
- announcement of its office in Blairmore.

Common themes raised and fielded by Benga regarded potential issues from the Project on:

- increased traffic and noise volume on Highway 3;
- wildlife; and
- water (quantity and quality).

Third Public Forum – May 29, 2014

Benga conducted the third Public Forum for the Project in the community of Coleman in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta on May 29, 2014.

Approximately 50 people attended, including the Managing Director, CFO, Operations Manager, Community Liaison and newly appointed Vice-President Technical Services. A PowerPoint presentation of an update of the project was presented to the attendees. The purpose of the presentation was to provide:

- further background on Benga;
- developing details of the Project;
- details on the outcome of sample analysis to date;
- plans for future exploration;
- community engagement plan;

- community involvement to date;
- effects of the South Saskatchewan Region Plan;
- water studies;
- transportation of finished product;
- project schedule; and
- financials.

The following questions were raised and fielded by Benga representatives:

- In terms of your business plan and financing, right now you're putting it by some equity capital that you're pretty comfortable with. Will you go to the market for more or what is the plan?
- Where is the point where you will make the decision to go to the market at the point of permitting, some detailed design?
- From the samples that Riversdale has received already, what is it, Thermal or Metallurgical?
- There would be some Thermal coal on Grassy, is that true?
- What is the break even here for your cost on production? You've shared that some of the smaller producers are fading away which is good for you guys, but what is your break even.
- In terms of size, how does this mine stack up, is it small, medium, large and what sets you apart from the other small markets that are fading away?
- You say you'll start production around 2018, so when do you anticipate close up?
- Could you give us a sense of how much you're going to spend in the community this year on this project?
- How many people do you expect to employ at 2,000,000 tonnes per year?
- When it comes to farming out a lot of your contracting services, I assume you must go out to tender and bid processes, how far in advance of mine production do you have to get all of that in place for local people who are looking at branching out or expanding their businesses.
- Now that you've opened up the area and started an exploration program, if it doesn't work out in terms of feasibility would you be on the hook to reclaim the previous disturbance?
- How far do you want to go with reclaiming the past and how would that be measured? As far as the EIS and feasibility what have you used elsewhere in an environmental management system to help your operation minimize waste and reduce impacts?

First Open House – September 30 and October 1, 2014

Benga conducted the first open house for the Project in Coleman, Alberta on September 30 and October 1, 2014, at the Crowsnest Pass Sport Complex. Following is a description of this open house, including purpose, approach (notification, attendance, format and data collection) and results.

156 community members attended the event. Project representatives and consultants collected comments about needs, interests and concerns to be considered in the Project application. Many participants expressed support for the Project. A majority of those who completed exit surveys indicated their learning and participation needs were met.

Purpose: The open house was intended to:

- announce the submission of Project Description and proposed TOR to the AER (submitted on September 29, 2015). Copies of each document were provided at the open house;
- present and solicit feedback on an engineering decision point regarding the rail alignment and associated load-out facility;
- identify people's interests, issues, needs and questions related to the proposed Project that must be addressed as part of the regulatory application process; and
- provide Project contact information for follow-up opportunities.

Notification: Community members were made aware of the open houses by placing advertisements in the local newspaper (*Crowsnest Pass Herald*).

Event Format: People who attended were greeted as they arrived and asked to sign in before they participated. It was explained that the purpose of collecting personal information was to prepare a Project contact list to provide Grassy Mountain Coal Project updates to those people who were interested. It was also noted that all of the personal information would be managed and used as required by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Those people who did not wish to provide their personal information were counted as well. Following sign-in, people were provided with a brief orientation to the information available and asked if there were any specific areas of interest, need or concern that they wished to begin with.

Six stations provided participants with brief, focused information points. Project representatives and consultants were available at each station to provide detailed information and answer questions. A separate area with tables and chairs was available for participants to meet one-on-one with Project representatives. The six stations and the information provided at each included:

- Welcome and Orientation - Community members were greeted, welcomed and oriented to the open house format. They were guided to Project staff and consultants who were best able to discuss and respond to specific questions or comments.
- Corporate Information and Background - Participants learned about Benga’s corporate philosophy and approach, the current Project, and had the opportunity to meet company and Project leaders at this station.
- Environmental Studies and Maps - Project consultants were available at this station to review maps of the proposed mine footprint, and to discuss the results of on-going field studies in the proposed mine permit area.
- Project Economic and Market Feasibility - Participants were given information about the economic assessment for the Project, including recent market information about coal mining.
- Rail Alignment and Load-Out Facility Options - Information was provided about the two most technical and economically feasible rail alignments – the “valley bottom siding” option and the “golf course” option.

Exit Interview Results: A total of 96 exit surveys were completed (62% of attending participants). The first section explored whether the open houses met participants’ learning needs. The results are summarized in [Table G.3.4-1](#).

	Yes (%)
Did you get the information you needed?	62%
Was the event helpful to learn about the Project?	91%
Were the materials provided easy to understand and use?	72%
Were staff helpful in explaining the materials so you could respond?	91%
Were your questions answered fully?	56%
Did you comment on those areas of greatest interest/need/concern to you?	70%
Did staff listen and record your comments?	61%

Identified Community Concerns and Interests: In the second section of the exit survey, respondents reviewed a list of concerns or interests and indicated which were important to them. The percentage of respondents who indicated concern is presented in [Table G.3.4-2](#).

Table G.3.4-2 Public Stakeholder Identified Areas of Concern	
Potential Areas of Concern	% Indicating Concern
Groundwater quality	74%
Residential property effects	65%
Human health	59%
Groundwater quantity	59%
Surface water quantity	56%
Surface water quality	55%
Wildlife and fisheries	55%
Reclamation	54%
Recreation access to public land	49%
Public safety	47%
Public engagement	43%
Industrial and mine related traffic volumes	43%
Protection of historical resources	39%

Common Themes: Themes for which two or more people commented included: the need for a hand-out on load-out options indicating mitigations for dust, noise pollution and visual impact assessment, the need for information on selenium issues, more detailed maps using orthophoto imagery and indicating access roads and trails, more details on the socio-economic impacts, impacts on recreational use of area. In regards to the rail alignment and load-out, people were primarily concerned about residential property values, air quality, noise, and visual impacts for the “valley bottom” option. For the “golf-course” option people were also concerned about air quality, noise and visual impacts; however, were less concerned about property values, but more interested in the overall impact to the golf course.

Open House Follow-up: 29 respondents indicated they would like a Project representative to follow-up with the provision of further information. Specific topics for follow-up were noted as:

- rail load-out updates (visual and recreational impacts);
- employment or contracting opportunities;

- mountain bike trails access and protection;
- dust and noise concerns;
- wildlife movements and environmental effects; and,
- groundwater and surface water quality protection (selenium concerns).

Second Open House - April 22, 2015

Benga conducted the second open house for the Project in the community of Blairmore, at the Elks Hall on April 22. This was a combination of an open house and public forum that was decided upon due to community feedback. Total number of people who signed in over the course of the day was 229. There were 180 attendees at the evening presentation.

Event Format: The open house was held from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm with four “information stations” that provided participants with brief, focused learning and discussion points. Project representatives and consultants were available at each of the stations to provide detailed information, answer questions and record comments.

The information stations included:

- Welcome and Orientation;
- Project Update Status – Environmental Assessment;
- Proposed Mine Development - Geographic Information, Mine Plan, Maps, Engineering, Site and Facility Layout; and
- Proposed Rail Load-Out Options.

Purpose: The purpose of the open house was to:

- provide a forum for the general public to comment on proposed rail load-out options;
- obtain information from the public and stakeholders that will assist in project decision with a specific focus on proposed rail alignments and load-out options;
- obtain public feedback on any positive or negative impact the project may have on them, their community or other concerns of interest to them; and
- establish the majority support of the community between two proposed Load Out options.

From 7:00 pm to approximately 8:30, Benga Managing Director and CFO provided a presentation to the public. The presentation was intended to:

- introduce other companies involved in the Project;

- provide coal market information;
- financial objective required of the Project;
- current project status;
- expenditures overall and in the community;
- economic Impact to the community;
- geology;
- mine site infrastructure/operations;
- employment;
- rail load out and conveyor design for two options;
- environmental studies;
- potential environmental issues;
- potential safety issues; and
- project schedule.

A total of 18 people requested a copy of the presentation, it was posted on the Riversdale Resources website and a link forwarded to those stakeholders that requested it.

Following the presentation, the Managing Director and the CFO fielded questions and comments from the public and the questions. A full list of the questions asked is outlined in [Appendix 6a](#).

Exit Interview: A total of 91 exit surveys were completed (39% of attending participants). Results of the exit surveys were as follows:

Common Themes:

- more handouts (*i.e.*, general overview, the presentation, *etc.*);
- updates on websites;
- handouts on the information at the specific stations;
- status of affected land owners (this came from outside of the affected property owners adjacent to Grassy Mountain);
- display list of things Benga is able to contribute to in the community;
- provide list of spin off benefits;
- more open houses; and
- more people at the stations to explain them.

The first section explored whether the open houses met participants’ learning needs. The results are summarized in [Table G.3.4-3](#) (based on responses to the question).

Table G.3.4-3 Participant Learning at the Open House	
	Yes (%)
Did you get the information you needed?	62%
Was the event helpful to learn about the Project?	83%
Were the materials provided easy to understand and use?	61%
Were staff helpful in explaining the materials so you could respond?	80%
Were your questions answered fully?	59%
Did you comment on those areas of greatest interest/need/concern to you?	67%
Did staff listen and record your comments?	60%

Identified Community Concerns and Interests: In the second section of the exit survey, respondents reviewed a list of concerns or interests and indicated which were important to them. The percentage of respondents who indicated concern is presented in [Table G.3.4-4](#) (based on 91 completed feedback forms).

Table G.3.4-4 Attendee Potential Areas of Concern	
Potential Areas of Concern	% Indicating Concern
Changes/Impact to Community Character	53%
Community Health/Well Being	64%
Public Safety and Emergency Response	45%
Industrial and Mine Related Traffic Volumes	42%
Reclamation of Mined Lands to Public Use	49%
Protection of Historical Resources	28%
Recreation Access on Public Lands	49%
Wildlife/Mammals	53%

Table G.3.4-4 Attendee Potential Areas of Concern	
Potential Areas of Concern	% Indicating Concern
Fish	51%
Surface Water	58%
Groundwater	58%
Economic Development	57%
Employment	48%

The results of the question regarding the choice of the two proposed rail alignment and Load-Out options are summarized in [Table G.3.4-5](#).

Table G.3.4-5 Summary of Rail Alignment and Load-Out Option Survey	
Location of Option	Number of Positive Responses
Golf Course	45
Valley Bottom	21
In favor of project, but indifferent or undecided	15
Not opposed to project, opposed to either location	7
Opposed to project entirely	3

Third Open House – October 29, 2015

Benga conducted the third open house for the Project in the community of Bellevue, at the Elks Hall on October 29, 2015. This was a combination of an open house and public forum. Total number of attendees was 146.

Event Format: The open house was held from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm with ten “information stations” that provided participants with brief, focused learning and discussion points. Project representatives and consultants were available at each of the stations to provide detailed information, answer questions and record comments.

The information stations topics included:

- Welcome and Orientation;
- Environmental Assessment results;
- Water Management Strategy;
- Stewardship Program ;
- Proposed Mine Plan Layout; and
- Socio-Economics.

Purpose: The purpose of the open house was to:

- announce that the environmental impact assessment and application would be submitted mid-November; and,
- obtain public feedback on any positive or negative impact the Project may have on them, their community or other concerns of interest to them.

Exit Interview: A total of 64 exit surveys were completed (44% of attending participants). Results of the exit surveys are summarized in [Table G.3.4-6](#) (based on responses to the question).

Table G.3.4-6 Participant Learning at the Open House	
	Yes (%)
Did you get the information you needed?	64%
Was the event helpful to learn about the Project?	83%
Were the materials provided easy to understand and use?	60%
Were staff helpful in explaining the materials so you could respond?	79%
Were your questions answered fully?	58%
Did you comment on those areas of greatest interest/need/concern to you?	74%
Did staff listen and record your comments?	72%

Identified Community Concerns and Interests: The common themes raised at the open house and public forum included questions regarding air quality (dust) and noise around the load out, groundwater connectivity to the Project (from local well uses), and impacts to the people of Crowsnest Pass quality of life. The percentage of respondents who indicated concern is presented in [Table G.3.4-7](#) (based on 57 completed feedback forms).

Table G.3.4-7 Attendee Potential Areas of Concern	
Potential Areas of Concern	% Indicating Concern
Changes/Impact to Community Character	68%
Community Health/Well Being	61%
Public Safety and Emergency Response	37%
Industrial and Mine Related Traffic Volumes	56%
Reclamation of Mined Lands to Public Use	60%
Protection of Historical Resources	31%
Recreation Access on Public Lands	51%
Wildlife/Mammals	51%
Fish	56%
Surface Water	67%
Groundwater	75%
Economic Development	67%
Employment	58%

G.4.0 Comments Received During the Pre-Application Period

Table G.4.0-1 provides a summary of key issues that have been raised through public engagement to-date, and where applicable, Benga’s responses. Table G.4.0-1 was compiled using comments provided by public stakeholders at meetings, Open House/Public Forums, individual and group meetings, correspondence, emails and phone calls. Issues raised were primarily focused on level of engagement, access to the Project area, tourism and recreation, water, visual impacts, noise, and dust. Responses to concerns and issues expressed by the public identify how public input was incorporated into the Project development, impact mitigation and monitoring.

Table G.4.0-1 Summary of Key Issues Raised by Public Stakeholders

Category	Issue	Response/Outcome
Safety and Public Access Concerns	Property owners adjacent to Grassy Mountain have expressed concern about their continued access to their properties in the event that Benga closes the Grassy Mountain Road as a safety measure (Benga Mining, 2015b; 2015c).	<p>The Grassy Mountain Road is a private road owned by Benga that will experience increased traffic of operational vehicles during Project development. As a safety measure, Benga is considering closing this road to the public as work at the Project site draws nearer.</p> <p>There are ten properties adjacent to Grassy Mountain that are privately owned. Benga has been engaged with each of them. An agreement has been reached with some already that involves the direct purchase or involves a property trade. Each property owner is different and will require individual attention. Benga is confident that a solution can be managed for each one. Benga has, and will continue to work with the Municipal District of Ranchland to help identify solutions for continued access to properties adjacent to the Project.</p>
Land and Resource Use – Trapline Concerns	Users of the trapline located adjacent to the Project site expressed concern about how the Project may affect their trapline which is adjacent to the Project site (Benga Mining, 2014a).	Based on the geographic location of the trapline in relation to the Project site, Benga expects that mine operations will not affect the area surrounding the trapline until the later stages of mine operation. At present, Benga has not engaged in any exploration in the immediate vicinity of the trapline. Benga commits to engaging in discussions to assess how project operations may affect the trapline, as exploration and mine operations develop.
Land and Resource Use – Grazing Lease Concerns	Owners of grazing leases adjacent to Grassy Mountain identified concern regarding access to property for cattle grazing (Benga Mining, 2014d).	Benga is engaged in frequent and productive discussions with holders of grazing leases adjacent to the Project site, which includes both the single owner of grazing leases on Crown land, as well as the Gold Creek Grazing Coop. Benga is committed to continued engagement with grazing lease holders as the Project continues to develop to ensure that any issues that may arise related to property access are resolved in a mutually agreeable manner.
Land and Resource Use - Visual and	Concern about the visual effects and changes to recreation opportunities. The area will not be the same with mining so	In response to concerns expressed by the community related to the visual impact of the Project, Benga has made substantial adjustments to

Table G.4.0-1 Summary of Key Issues Raised by Public Stakeholders

Category	Issue	Response/Outcome
Recreation Effects	close to town. Hiking, trail running, mountain biking, fishing will all be affected (Benga Mining, 2015a).	various aspects of the Project’s design and location. As an example, Benga eliminated the “Valley Bottom” load-out location from consideration, opting instead for the Golf Course load-out location which was favored by the community. The design of the Golf Course load-out facility was also adjusted based on recommendations to the community such that the facility will be largely obscured from Highway 3.
Rail Alignment Design – Visual and Recreation Effects	<p>Concern about the visual impact from the position of the load-out facility relative to the Highway (Benga Mining, 2015c).</p> <p>Concern about continued use and scenic value of the Crowsnest Golf and Country Club (Benga Mining, 2014c).</p>	<p>Benga will take various steps to obscure the view of the load-out facility from the community. The base of the facility will be situated lower than the level of the highway; this will reduce the relative height of the structure. Berms will be constructed around the perimeter of the railway and trees will be planted to further obscure the view. Modern covered load-out facilities, such as the one to be constructed in Blairmore, are similar in appearance to a grain elevator and we at Benga believe that with proper landscaping, the structure will be visibly acceptable.</p> <p>Benga has been in communication with the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club (CNPGCC) regarding the loadout facility. The CNPGCC will be constructing new holes to replace any that will be removed by the installation of the loadout and will be building them so that the course will always have 18 holes</p>
Rail Alignment Design – Visual Impact Concerns	<p>The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass identified a concern regarding the visual impact of the proposed load-out infrastructure (Benga Mining, 2014d; Benga Mining, 2014e).</p> <p>Concern regarding the impacts to tourism, particularly as a result of the visual impact of the load-out facility (Benga Mining, 2014d; 2015a; 2015c).</p>	<p>In response to feedback provided by the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Benga has adjusted the location of the load-out infrastructure on the Project site to the back side of the rail loop which is further away from the highway. The site preparation (i.e., grading) necessary to install load-out infrastructure in the proposed location will position the base of the load out lower than the level of the highway, thereby reducing the relative height of the structure.</p> <p>A visual assessment of lighting around the rail</p>

Table G.4.0-1 Summary of Key Issues Raised by Public Stakeholders

Category	Issue	Response/Outcome
	The proposed load out area by Highway 3 may be too close to public areas and could be an eye sore to the community (Benga Mining, 2014d; 2015a).	load-out is provided in Section E.1 and CR #1 (Air Quality) of the Application, which outlines lighting mitigations.
Rail Alignment Design – Wildlife Movement Concerns	Concern raised that the proposed “Valley Bottom” rail alignment and load-out location would impact animals crossing on the existing north to south wildlife corridors around the existing Servus Credit Union building (Benga Mining, 2014d).	In response to community concerns related to the proposed “Valley Bottom” rail alignment and load out location, Benga proceeded with the “Golf Course” option.
Rail Alignment Design – Public Access Concerns	Concern regarding access to “Bushtown” being impeded as a result of linear load-out at the River Bottom load out site (Benga Mining, 2014d).	<p>In response to community concerns related to the proposed “Valley Bottom” rail alignment and load out location, Benga proceeded with the “Golf Course” option.</p> <p>The newly-proposed load out location will not affect access to Bushtown.</p>
Rail Alignment Design – Noise Concerns	Option two (the “Valley Bottom” load-out location) may increase noise levels in the area and devalue property of nearby residential units (Benga Mining, 2014d).	In response to community concerns related to the proposed “Valley Bottom” rail alignment and load out location, Benga proceeded with the “Golf Course” option.
Rail Alignment Design – Air Quality Concerns	Dust control along the conveyor towards the load-out and at the load out is a concern (Benga Mining, 2015a)	<p>No coal will be stockpiled at the load-out facility. Rather, train cars will be loaded by direct feed from the conveyor in a covered facility (with cover extending 2-3 train cars in length to either side of the loading point). These measures serve to reduce potential dust emissions.</p> <p>Overall, there are no significant impacts from dust are anticipated to occur from the Project.</p> <p>The Air Quality assessment is summarized in Section E.1 the Application. The full detailed report is provided in CR #1.</p>

Table G.4.0-1 Summary of Key Issues Raised by Public Stakeholders

Category	Issue	Response/Outcome
Rail Alignment Design – General Concern	Concern about the load out in case of break down problems (Benga Mining, 2014d).	Benga is committed to ensuring that operating equipment remain fully and safely operational and will ensure routine maintenance is completed on a regular schedule.
Rail Alignment Design – Engagement Process Concern	It almost seems that draft one of the train loading site is the one under serious consideration while the other options were presented simply for the purpose of showing alternatives without the intent of truly considering the viability of those options. (Benga Mining, 2014d).	All viable options for load-out sites were given serious consideration and were presented to the communities for feedback. Although it is a costlier option, Benga is now pursuing the Golf Course load-out facility option because it is the site that the community selected.
Engagement Process Request	Attend a general meeting of the Hillcrest Fish and Game Association to present the overview and answer questions from members.	On January 7, 2015 Benga attended a Hillcrest Fish and Game meeting and provided updates on the project and plans. Issues raised related to recreational access to Benga Mining properties.
Engagement Process Concerns	Concerns that suggestions are dismissed as too costly rather than looking at impacts to the community. How will public consultation influence decisions? (Benga Mining, 2014d; 2015a).	Benga takes community concerns seriously. For example, the decision to abandon the less costly “Valley Bottom” rail alignment and load-out facility was a result of community concerns related to the site. Benga is now pursuing the more costly Golf Course load-out facility option and has further modified the facility design to accommodate community concerns. Benga continues to work with stakeholders to discuss suggestions.
Engagement Process Concerns	Issues regarding adequate notice to land owners from Benga. Request that notice to property owners is at least 90 days in advance because the communication level to this point is inadequate (Benga Mining, 2015a).	Through its Community Engagement program, Benga has endeavored to provide early notification and accessible information about all aspects of the Project that will impact the community through a variety of means including: face-to-face meetings, open houses, public forums, written correspondence, a Project newsletter, media releases, and community events. Benga will continue to work in the community to communicate any relevant Project updates.
Engagement Process Concerns	Concern about long-term relationships in the community and a possible change in ownership (Benga Mining, 2015a).	Benga appreciates and values the community relationships that have been formed in the Crowsnest Pass. Benga intends to develop and operate the Grassy Mountain mine and at this time has no plans to sell the mine or outsource mining

Table G.4.0-1 Summary of Key Issues Raised by Public Stakeholders

Category	Issue	Response/Outcome
		operations. Generally speaking, the conditions set out in environmental certificates issued by governments are binding upon the Project owner, even if the Project ownership changes.
Economic Opportunities	Are you using local contractors for exploration and other onsite work? How many employees would be needed during the operation phase? Do you have a local hire policy? (Benga Mining, 2014d).	Benga’s intent is to preferentially engage contractors and employees from the region who have the capacity to do the work required.
Environmental Impact Concerns - Noise	Concern about the noise levels during construction and operation (Benga Mining, 2015c).	Potential effects associated with noise are assessed in Section E.2 (Noise) of the Application.
Environmental Impact Concerns – Air Quality	Concerns regarding the impact of dust and plans for air quality monitoring (Benga Mining, 2015c).	Matters related to air quality are addressed in Section E.1 (Air Quality and Climate) . Baseline conditions are addressed in Section E.1.2 , potential impacts are assessed in Section E.1.3 , and an overview of mitigation proposals are provided in Section E.1.4.2 .
Environmental Impact Concerns – Geochemistry	Concern about effects caused by leaching of selenium from waste rock, effects to groundwater, and effects to surface water and fisheries (Benga Mining, 2014d).	Potential effects associated with selenium are assessed in Section C.7 (Water Management) , and E.5 (Water Quality) of the Application
Environmental Impact Concerns – Water Quality	Representatives from the Town of Pincher Creek and the Municipal District of Pincher Creek expressed concern regarding potential effects to water quality as Pincher Creek’s water supply originates in Crowsnest Pass (Benga Mining, 2014b; Town of Pincher Creek, 2014). Attendees at the October 29, 2015 Open House expressed general concerns related to water disposal (Benga Mining, 2015c).	No significant impacts to groundwater quality or surface water quality are anticipated to occur from the Project. The hydrogeology and surface water quality assessments are summarized in Section E.3 and E.5 of the Application, respectively. Full detailed reports of each are provided in CR #3 and CR #5 , respectively.
Environmental Impact Concerns – Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Issues about potential impact on Gold Creek and aquifer water well sources (Benga Mining, 2015a).	The hydrogeology and surface water quality assessments are summarized in Section E.3 and E.4 of the Application, respectively. Full detailed reports of each are provided in CR #3 and CR #4 , respectively.

Full detailed summaries of comments received by public stakeholders together with summaries of open house and public forum meetings appear in [Appendix 6](#).

G.5.0 Incorporation of Public Input into Project Design

The public consultation program has resulted in a number changes to the Project siting and design, including the location of the load-out facilities and the rail alignment described in [Section A.7](#) (Alternative Means Assessment) and [Section C](#). Benga presented two viable locations at which to site the load-out facilities to the community for consideration and discussion. These options, referred to as “the golf course option” and “the valley bottom option” are described in [Section A.7](#). Both options differed in terms of the cost of constructing the facilities, as well in terms of the effects that constructing the facilities may introduce. The community indicated a strong preference for the costlier “golf course option” and accordingly, Benga eliminated the valley bottom option from further consideration.

In designing the golf course load-out facility, Benga incorporated input from the community in an effort to mitigate potential visual impacts. Members of the community frequently voiced concerns that the load-out facility would be too visible from Highway 3. Accordingly, Benga redesigned the location of the load-out infrastructure to the back side of the rail loop, thereby moving the infrastructure further away from Highway 3. The site preparation (*i.e.*, grading) necessary to install load-out infrastructure in the proposed location will position the base of the load-out lower than the level of the highway, thereby reducing the relative height of the structure from Highway 3. To further obscure the view of the infrastructure from the highway and community, Benga will construct berms and plant vegetation around the perimeter of the railway. As part of its Public Consultation Plan, Benga will continue to engage in discussions with the community to address ideas for landscaping and other measures that would diminish concerns related to the visual impact of the load out infrastructure from the community’s perspective.

Given that the location of the load-out facility preferred by the community is positioned adjacent to an existing golf course, Benga has worked closely with the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club, as well as the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass to minimize impacts to the golf course and achieve mutually-beneficial solutions.

Benga has further adjusted the Project’s proposed footprint to resolve concerns expressed by community members. Examples of these adjustments include: relocating the rail crossing over Blairmore Creek northward to allay concerns expressed by Alberta Transportation; modifying the location of the construction camp to minimize impact on a cattle pen; and relocating the helipad location and its access road due to their proximity to the future golf course expansion site.

G.6.0 Continuing Engagement

Consultation with public stakeholders during the Application/EIA/EIS review phase is intended to meet regulatory requirements and to continue to identify, discuss, track and address issues and concerns with a focus on stakeholder groups that may be affected by the Project.

Benga plans to hold community meetings, additional focused meetings with individuals and agencies and undertaking planning with the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club throughout the Application period.

Benga maintains an “open door” during business hours at the local office in Crowsnest Pass whereby individuals can stop by at their convenience to discuss or ask questions about the Project. Benga will continue to operate its community office and employ a Community Relations representative. This will ensure local stakeholders can easily access Project staff and information. Key activities will continue to include:

- newsletter updates will be distributed on a quarterly schedule;
- open houses, to be scheduled pending availability of significant new project information;
- meetings and communication with public stakeholders; and
- responses to public stakeholder comments in a timely manner.

These efforts will ensure that all interested individuals and agencies continue to have opportunities to be informed about the Project, their environmental and social concerns are identified, and methods for mitigating the concerns have been thoroughly investigated. Benga will continue the public consultation program throughout the life of the Project.

Appendix 6

Public Engagement

Appendix 6a: Public Consultation Report

Appendix 6b: Media Examples

Appendix 6c: Public Notices

Appendix 6d: Public Forum and Open House Material

Appendix 6a

Public Consultation Report



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Public Consultation Report

July 2016

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Need for Public Participation

Benga is a junior mining company whose key strategy is to “work closely with host Governments and Communities to ensure a relationship based on trust and open communication is established whereby all will benefit”. Their core values of engaging the community early, often and constructively will create powerful shared values. Agreed-upon shared values help bind people together, and Benga can be a catalyst through its communication with the interested stakeholders that will build a stronger and more vibrant community.

Alberta Energy Regulator

The Final Terms of Reference Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Grassy Mountain Project (EIA ToR) as submitted to the Alberta Energy Regulator by Benga identifies the following requirements that must be met in a community engagement program:

Describe the concerns and issues expressed by the public and the actions taken to address those concerns and issues, including how public input was incorporated into the project development, impact mitigation and monitoring.

Describe the concerns and issues expressed by aboriginal communities and the actions taken to address those concerns and issues, including how aboriginal community input was incorporated into the project design, EIA development, impact mitigation, monitoring, and reclamation. Describe consultation undertaken with aboriginal communities and groups with respect to traditional ecological knowledge and potential impacts on current use of land and water resources for traditional purposes.

Describe plans to maintain the public engagement processes following the completion of the EIA report to ensure that the public will have an appropriate forum for expressing their views on the ongoing development, operation and reclamation of the project.

Describe the efforts to obtain public input and identify concerns with the proposed project, including public consultation methods, locations and timings.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Grassy Mountain Coal Project Description Summary submitted to the Canadian Environment Assessment Agency by Benga provides details of the Consultation with the public and other parties as follows:

Overview of Activities to Date

Timely and effective engagement with the public is a key aspect of the Project. Benga has held three Public Forums and three Open Houses in the Crowsnest Pass to inform the public about the Project. Numerous meetings have also been held with the regional municipalities, local stakeholders, local residents and land owners, special interest groups, provincial and federal government agencies, senior cabinet ministers and specific individuals with concerns.

In addition to the Public Forums and Open Houses, Benga has attended a local Trade Show in Blairmore and held numerous meetings with the municipalities in the region, particularly the specialized Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and the Municipal District of Ranchland.

Future Public Consultation Reports

Benga expects to be holding additional focused meetings with individuals and agencies as the Project continues in development and review. The Provincial Proposed Terms of Reference for the EIA were publicly filed and public comments were sought through a 45 day public notice period. In addition to these activities, Benga maintains an “open door” policy to their Blairmore office whereby individuals can stop by at their convenience to discuss the Project. Benga will continue to operate its community office and employ a Community Relations representative. This will ensure the people have a physical location to go to ask questions and to obtain Project information.

These efforts will ensure that all interested individuals and agencies have an opportunity to become familiar with the Project, and that all pertinent environmental and social concerns have been identified and methods for mitigating these concerns have been investigated. Benga will continue to the public engagement program throughout the Project’s life.

Copies of the provincial (AER) Terms of Reference, Summary Table, Project Description, or other documents are made available on the company website or can be obtained by contacting the company contacts noted in this document.

Key Elements of Public Participation

The public should have an opportunity to have a say in decisions that affect their lives through a meaningful public participation process. For a public participation program to be meaningful, it should exhibit all of the following elements:

Early Notification

Where notification is to be given, it needs to be done early enough to allow the public to have the opportunity to influence the planning of a project and its environmental assessment process before any irrevocable decisions are made.

Accessible Information

The responsible authority should ensure that all participants are provided with the information they need to participate effectively on a timely basis. Consideration should be given to the appropriate language for this information and the need to use culturally sensitive means of communication. Access to information should only be limited in accordance with the laws relating to access to information and privacy.

Shared Knowledge

A project should be developed on the basis of both technical and scientific knowledge and community and Aboriginal traditional knowledge. Knowledge, concerns, values and viewpoints should be shared in an open, respectful and timely manner. This includes information on the potential consequences of a project. Any rights flowing from the ownership of information that participants may have need to be respected.

Sensitivity to Community Values

Public participation processes need to be carried out in a manner that respects different community values and needs.

Reasonable timing

A public participation process should provide the public with a fair and reasonable amount of time to evaluate the information presented and to respond to project proposals and to proposed decisions by proponents and responsible authorities.

Appropriate levels of participation

A public participation process should provide for levels of participation that are commensurate with the level of public interest.

Adaptive processes

Public participation processes should be designed, implemented and revised as necessary to match the needs and circumstances of the project and to reflect the needs and expressed preferences of participants. This process may be iterative and dynamic in keeping with the reasonable expectations of participants.

Transparent results

Public participation is based on the premise that the public's contribution will be considered in the decision-making process. A public participation process should, at its conclusion, provide information and a rationale on whether or how the public input affected the decision.

Public Participation Plan Directive

Planning

- Key Community

- Public Interest Groups

- General Public/Individuals

Identify Methods of Communication

- Media (Print and Radio)

- Direct Communication (mail, email & phone)

- Local Bulletin Board

Identify and Define Methods of Engagement

- Formal Meeting

- Unofficial Contact/Walk-ins

- Open Houses/Public Forums

- Formal Letter

- Newsletter

- Media

- Community Event Participation

- Community Investment

- Sponsorships

Recording Stakeholder's Contact Information

- Communication Forms

- StakeTracker

Implement Plan

- Notification of stakeholders

- Encourage participation of events and meetings

- Provide information to community and stakeholders

- Identify concerns and issue of the community and Stakeholders

- Work with community and stakeholders to establish resolution to concerns and issues

- Provide follow-up as required.

- Maintain documentation and record all communication

Prepare Report

- Prepare report on the public engagement process

 - Overview of plan

 - Methods of communication and engagement

 - Results of engagement

 - Resolution of concern

On-going Plans

- Continue to engage community

 - Address concerns

 - Record keeping

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Identification of Stakeholders

Local Governments

Municipality of Crowsnest Pass

Although the Grassy Mountain Project Site is within the boundary of the MD of Ranchland, the majority of the economic impact of the operation is going to affect the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass. It is the nearest community to the site. This will be the base for all operations from exploration to mine construction. It also has the nearest CP Rail line necessary for the Coal Load Out. Emergency services for the site will also be dispatched out of Crowsnest Pass.

The current population of the Crowsnest Pass is approximately 5600 people. The community was built on coal mining starting in the late 1800's. Coleman Collieries was the last operation in Crowsnest Pass to close in 1983. The community does not have good memories of coal dust and wind issues from the Coleman mine. The community has minimal industry and depends significantly on the taxes of an aging population for revenue.

Many of the residents now view the community as a “Recreational/Tourism Community” due to the numerous natural and historical resources, but remains underdeveloped. The municipal government consists of a mayor and six counsellors.

Municipal District of Ranchland

The MD of Ranchland is a very large district with a land area of about 2639 sq/km, with 45 dwellings and a population of approximately 104 people. There are no communities in the MD and the office is located in the Chain Lakes Provincial Park. It is considered to be primarily a ranching district although it collects significant royalties from gas and oil pipelines running through. Its government consists of a Reeve and two counsellors.

Town of Pincher Creek

The town of Pincher Creek is approximately 50 kilometers east of Crowsnest Pass. Its population is approximately 3700 people. There is significant business within the community to support the farming and ranching, as well as the oil and gas and wind energy industries that exist around the community. Its government consists of a Mayor and six counsellors.

Municipal District of Pincher Creek

The MD of Pincher Creek surrounds the Town of Pincher Creek with a population of 3160 people. Within the MD of Pincher Creek are four other small Hamlets: Lundbreck, Cowley, Beaver Mines and Twin Butte. Much like the Town of Pincher Creek, farming and ranching, the oil and gas and wind energy industries are key to the MD’s economy. The MD office is inside the Town of Pincher Creek and its government consists of the Reeve and four counsellors.

District of Sparwood

Located in the province of British Columbia approximately 50 kilometers west of Crowsnest Pass, the District of Sparwood has approximately 4200 residents. Sparwood is quite large for its population, taking up an area of 191.01 square kilometers and incorporating three local coal mines. The local economy is heavily dependent on coal mining, one of British Columbia's primary industries. A large part of the population either works in the mines or as tradesmen and labourers in related support industries, such as trucking or as mechanics. Logging is another important industry. The population of the district is approximately 4200 people and governed by a Mayor and six counsellors.

Residents of the Following Communities

The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass consists of five communities that were historically independent. On January 1, 1979 the following communities amalgamated to become the Crowsnest Pass.

- Coleman
- Blairmore
- Frank
- Hillcrest
- Bellevue

Other Land Interests

Property Owners Adjacent to Grassy Mountain

There are ten privately owned quarter sections adjacent to Grassy Mountain. Some are owned by local residents, but most are owned by out-of-towners (ie: Calgary, Lethbridge, etc.). The mine site will be adjacent to approximately five of these properties and will likely be more impacted than the other five. The access to these properties is Grassy Mountain Road and privately owned by Benga has also become a concern due to its unforeseeable existence and the safety factors that will come in to play with public access on a mine road.

Grazing Leases Adjacent to Grassy Mountain

There is a single owner of Grazing Leases on crown land that consist of ten quarter sections in vicinity of Grassy Mountain. There is also the Gold Creek Grazing Coop of whom the single owner is a member. Benga works often with both to the advantage of all. The Gold Creek Grazing Coop leases approximately fourteen quarter sections in the Grassy Mountain area from the crown and used to lease the properties now owned by Benga. Gold Creek continues to utilize Benga property for grazing, but at no charge. In turn Benga has required access through the leased properties by the single lessee and Gold Creek Grazing in order to conduct exploration. The single lessee has also been hired by Benga to conduct occasional site security. His knowledge of the area makes him an ideal candidate for this job.

In the frequent contact with both the single lessee and Gold Creek Grazing to conduct business, there is also discussion on the future grazing over the course of the construction and operation of Grassy Mountain Mine. This is not something that can be answered at this point and will likely require ongoing communication with the cattlemen over the lifetime of the mine. Benga is committed to meeting with the single grazing lease holder and Gold Creek Grazing Coop to ensure a continued line of communication with these stakeholders.

Trap Lines

There are three trappers in the area of the Grassy Mountain Project. One is adjacent to the project site, another is in the close vicinity, and the remaining trapper is in the area. Regular communication for two is required as a result of exploration projects. Notifications are delivered, as required, depending on the location of the projects. What this means is the trapper adjacent to the project site is notified for almost all exploration and the second is notified only if there are activities near his claim. Notification has not been required with the third trapper.

On February 19, 2014 the first trapper (adjacent to project site) and his son met with Benga and discussed their concerns. The trap line has been in their family for fifty years and they are concerned about how it will impact their trap line. It does not appear that the mine operations will be in there area until late in the life of the mine, but they have concerns about how that may impact them.

On March 10, 2015 Benga met up with the third trapper. He resides in the MD of Ranchland, but used to be a school teacher in Crowsnest Pass. An overview of the project was provided to him. He provided no concerns for the project in regards to the impact on his trap line. He observed the economic value to the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and went on to say that the wildlife and industry is capable of coexisting just fine.

Economic and Community Development

Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce

Local businesses within Crowsnest Pass banding together to provide support through a variety of services and benefits. The Chamber of Commerce encourages partnerships among individuals, civic groups, businesses and the municipal council.

Crowsnest Pass Community Futures

Community Futures supports small business in Crowsnest Pass by providing business financing and business counseling services for new and existing businesses in the effort to develop the local economy. It works with a wide variety of community organizations on community economic development projects in an effort to increase growth and sustainability within the Crowsnest Pass.

Crowsnest Pass Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee (EDTAC)

The Crowsnest Pass Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee is made up of eight members of the community appointed by council. The Committee is to represent a broad based economic development and tourism profile which reflects the diversity of the community. The Committee is an advisory body and provides Council with information on economic and tourism development in alignment with strategic priorities that includes tourism, marketing, new business opportunities (commercial and industrial) and business attraction and retention.

Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce

Local businesses in Pincher Creek working together to support through a variety of services and benefits. The Chamber of Commerce encourages partnerships among individuals, civic groups, businesses and the municipal council.

Pincher Creek Economic Development Committee

The Town of Pincher Creek Economic Development Committee consists of seven voting members, one council member and six member of the community. Also on the board is the Town of Pincher Creek Economic Development Officer who is not a voting member. The Committee's objectives consist of improving Pincher Creek's image, attracting new residents and attracting new business.

Government Authorities

Alberta Energy Regulator (AER)

The Alberta Energy Regulator ensures the safe, efficient, orderly, and environmentally responsible development of hydrocarbon resources over their entire life cycle. This includes allocating and conserving water resources, managing public lands, and protecting the environment while providing economic benefits for all Albertans.

Energy regulation in Alberta spans more than 75 years and has evolved over time. This evolution continued in 2013 when the AER became a new organization and began taking on regulatory functions related to energy development that were previously held by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

(ESRD). This transition is now complete, and the AER is now the single regulator of energy development in Alberta—from application and exploration, to construction and development, to abandonment, reclamation, and remediation.

Aboriginal Consultation Office

The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) provides consultation management services to meet the needs of Government of Alberta ministries, First Nations, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), and project proponents in a way that is efficient, coordinated, and consistent. Created in November 2013, the ACO merged consultation and advisory services that used to be provided by both Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and Indigenous Relations.

Alberta Energy and Sustainable Resources Development

The Alberta Energy and Sustainable Resources Development (ESRD) is the Alberta provincial ministry of the Executive Council of Alberta responsible for environmental policy and sustainable resource development. It manages the use of Alberta's diverse landscapes to sustain a healthy environment, a prosperous economy and strong communities by protecting the provinces air land and water.

Alberta Transportation

Alberta Transportation is the government body responsible for the highways within Alberta. Their mission is “to provide a safe, innovative and sustainable world-class transportation system that supports Alberta's economy and quality of life”.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) is the federal body accountable to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. CEAA is the responsible authority for most federal Environmental Assessments, which contribute to informed decision making in support of sustainable development.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has the lead federal role in managing Canada's fisheries and safeguarding its waters. Their mission is to use sound science, forward-looking policy, and operational and service excellence to achieve economically prosperous maritime sectors and fisheries, sustainable aquatic ecosystems, and safe and secure waters.

Community Service/Civic Awareness

Crowsnest Museum/Historical Society

Crowsnest Pass is a community rich with history. The Crowsnest Historical Society was formed in 1973 by a group of concerned citizens who recognized the need to preserve the unique cultural history of the Crowsnest Pass which was quickly disappearing. Their mission statement states that “through its collection, the Crowsnest Historical Society and Crowsnest Museum & Archives protects, preserves, and portrays the cultural heritage of Crowsnest Pass and its people to ensure the knowledge of the past enriches the lives of present and future generations”.

Bellevue Underground Mine

The Bellevue Mine was active from about 1905 until 1961 and was the reason for the town of Bellevue's existence. The mine entrance now serves as a Museum providing visitors with a unique opportunity to go a short distance underground into the historic coal mine. Hardhats, lights, and knowledgeable guides are provided. There are many on-site artifacts both in the mine and near the entrance.

Crowsnest Cultural and Recreation Society (Can-do)

The Crowsnest Cultural and Recreation Society is a group with a vision for a multi-purpose and cultural center for Crowsnest Pass. They have plans for the raising of funds, construction, maintenance and operation of a recreational complex. They have already conducted some fund raising events in the Crowsnest Pass.

Social, Health and Emergency Services

Crowsnest Pass Fire and Rescue

Because of Crowsnest Pass's natural recreation and extreme topography it requires a Fire and Rescue crew that is trained for many unique circumstances. There is one Fire and Rescue department with three stations: one in Coleman, one in Blairmore, and one in Bellevue.

Crowsnest Pass RCMP

The Crowsnest Pass RCMP detachment houses a Sergeant, Corporal and five constables.

Crowsnest Pass Emergency Medical Services

Crowsnest Pass EMS currently has three ambulances two running full time and the third running half time. Crowsnest Pass EMS is managed through Alberta Health Services.

Environmental Groups

Crowsnest Pass Conservation Society

Crowsnest Conservation Society is a charitable organization based in Crowsnest Pass, devoted to working together with community partners to ensure a healthy future for the natural environment and the people and wildlife that live in it.

Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Nature Conservancy of Canada secures natural areas through purchases, donations or other mechanisms and manages these properties for the long term. They work with other conservation agencies to creatively establish objectives and plans to conserve Canada's natural heritage.

Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition

The Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition is a conservation group that was started in 1989 by a small group of southern Albertans who were concerned about the future ecological health of the Castle Region. Since that time the organization has grown to over 500 members, including more than a dozen member groups. They recognize that the Castle Region is an important part of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem which covers approximately 44,000 square kilometers of Alberta, BC, and Montana and includes Waterton Lakes National Park, Glacier National Park, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Alberta Wilderness Association

The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) is a non-profit, federally registered, charitable society that was established in 1965. It is dedicated to the completion of a protected areas network and the conservation of wilderness, with a provincial office and resource center in Calgary, and active members, volunteers, and sponsors throughout Alberta and beyond.

Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited is a registered Canadian non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve, protect and restore Canada's freshwater ecosystems and their cold-water resources. Their work includes stream restoration, scientific research and education. Their resources consists of a core group of highly trained staff and a network of volunteers.

Wildlife and Habitat

Hillcrest Fish and Game Protective Association

The Hillcrest Fish and Game Protective Association is a branch that has been registered under the Alberta Fish and Game Association for over ninety years. Made up primarily of hunters and fishermen, the organization promotes through education and programs the conservation and responsible utilization of fish and wildlife and to protect and enhance the habitat they depend on.

Ducks Unlimited Crowsnest Pass

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of wetlands and associated upland habitats for waterfowl, other wildlife, and people. It had roughly 597,000 members as of January 2012

Recreational

Crowsnest Pass Golf Club

The Crowsnest Pass Golf Course is an 18 hole grass green golf course originally opened in 1918. GolfWest magazine awarded this course a Gold Medal as "Most Scenic Alberta Course" in 2014. The Golf Course expanded in the 1980's onto property that was turned over to the in an agreement with Devon. Part of the same free-hold land was purchased by Benga from Devon.

CNP Quad Squad

The Quad Squad is an ATV/UTV organization that practices active stewardship including trail clean-ups, development, and maintenance projects, as well as providing a powerful voice for ATV enthusiasts who wish to continue to have access to off-highway vehicle trails and random camping areas. Their mission is to promote responsible use of Alberta's Southern Rockies and to ensure the conservation of our wilderness areas for the continued use of future generations.

United Riders of Crowsnest (UROC)

UROC is a mountain biking club in Crowsnest Pass that not only takes advantage of the many trails through the terrain in Crowsnest Pass, but have built many of their own around the Powderkeg Ski Hill in Blairmore. Many of the trails that they have built and many trails that they have future plans for are on Benga properties.

Crow Snow Riders

The Crow Snow Riders Club is a snowmobile club in Crowsnest Pass that is organized to help support the snowmobiling in the Crowsnest Pass area.

Private Campgrounds

Crowsnest Pass Campgrounds – Passburg District

Hiawatha Campgrounds – Burmis District

Lost Lemon Campgrounds – Blairmore

Crowsnest RV Park – Coleman

Crowsnest Mountain Resort

Defining Methods of Communication

Formal Meeting

Formal Meetings are schedule meetings with a purpose. They may or may not require a planned agenda, but should be documented at the conclusion with “Meeting Notes” or on a “Meeting Notes Form”.

Unofficial Contact

Unofficial Contact is generally an unplanned meeting, where the two parties meeting is “coincidental” or the Stakeholder may stop in to visit informally. The Unofficial Contact is generally documented on a “Record of Contact Form”.

Open Houses/Public Forums

There have been several Open Houses and Public Forums or a combination of the two. An Open House can be identified as a display of the different areas of interest (ie: Environmental Studies, Site Operations, Load Out Options, etc.) that are staffed by the experts and the public is able to observe and ask questions. A Public Forum involves a presentation put on by Benga and the public is able to ask questions at the end of the presentation. At both venues, the attendees are greeted at the door where they are asked to sign in. At the last three Open Houses/Public Forums, the attendees were provided with an Exit Interview to complete and submit. There are three forms of feedback that can be received from the public through Open Houses/Public Forums:

Direct Comments

Q & A

Exit Interviews

The Exit Interviews are basically feedback forms supplied to Open House attendees as they arrive and they are encouraged to document their concerns, advice, etc. Questions may change from one Open House to another depending on the topics of interest from previous public feedback or if Benga required the public consensus on a direction to take on the project (ie: preferred Load-Out Option).

The Open Houses and Public Forums were generally promoted with:

Posters throughout the community

Print media advertising

Radio broadcast media advertising

Email posters to the email list

The key objectives of the Open Houses and Public Forums

Introduce the Project and the related publicly available documents;

Identify key community and public interest groups, people and other stakeholders;

Encourage participation of people or groups who may have an interest in the project;

Provide adequate information to people for them to learn about the project and weigh the advantages and disadvantages; and,

Identify and understand mine planning and development interests and issues of the public

Each Open House/Public Forum took place in the late afternoon and/or early evening.

Formal Letter

Formal Letters are similar to Newsletters as they are informative, but are more specific to one topic of information. For example, the announcement of a decision from a recent Open House/ Public Forum.

Newsletter

Project Newsletters were prepared and distributed through the email and mail lists, at Open Houses, Trade Shows and presentations to the various groups and organizations. They provided a project overview, updates and any other information of interest to the project. The purpose of the Newsletter was to create awareness and participation in the Community Engagement.

Media

Crowsnest Pass hosts two print media (The Crowsnest Pass Herald and Shootin' the Breeze), one radio station and houses poster boards throughout the community. Benga also maintains its own website. There has been media coverage in print media outside of Crowsnest Pass as Benga has reaches out to the communities next to Crowsnest Pass. There has also been some Regional coverage on broadcast media (CBC Television and Radio) because of the projected positive impact the project will have on the community.

Community Office

Benga operates a Community Office in Crowsnest Pass that employs a full time Community Relations representative. The office provides a location where area stakeholders are welcome to ask questions and find information about the project and a person dedicated to addressing and tracking the community questions and concerns.

Community Event Participation

Benga believes that being a part of the community is about building relationships and attending the community events and functions provides the opportunity to build strong relationships.

Community Investment

Investing in the Community means supporting local initiatives, groups and organizations in order to build a stronger and more vibrant community. Although the Grassy Mountain Project is not yet an operational mine, Benga is already investing in the community.

Management of Communication

StakeTracker

StakeTracker is an advanced, purpose-built stakeholder relationship management software solution designed to help stakeholder engagement and public consultation professionals efficiently manage communications with stakeholders, communities and the public. The web-based stakeholder management software assists in tracking communications with stakeholders in order of the stakeholders, their groups, the land parcels they are associated and/or the topic of the communication (ie: environment, Load Out, project overview, etc). Much like the overall Public Consultation Plan, regular evaluation of the manner in which the data is entered into StakeTracker is required as new statistics may be of interest to the project application.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION

Key Stakeholders

Local Governments

Municipality of Crowsnest Pass

Benga engaged with Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass on August 29, 2012 prior to the transaction of the Grassy Mountain Properties from Devon. Regular engagement continued with the current Municipal Government after a complete change over from the Municipal Election which took place October 21, 2013. In the early stages of the project, meetings ranged from informal with the Mayor and CAO to presentations on record at council meetings. The topics consisted of updates on the exploration operations and timelines on the planning of the various phases of the project. As the plans progressed into further decisions regarding site and load out design, Mayor and Council were apprized prior to being presented at Open Houses. As the project enters preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), multiple options have had to be narrowed down to one specific option. In-camera meetings with other Stakeholders such as the Crowsnest Golf Club and Transportation Alberta were required to address concerns and mitigate issues.

Further meetings are now being planned to discuss the direct contribution Benga will have on the community in the near and the distant future. Although further discussions will involve other community groups, it is imperative that the Mayor and Council are informed and have input to the plans. On July 22, 2015 three councillors were taken up to Grassy Mountain for a Site Tour.

Table 3.1-1 describes the in-person meetings that have been held between Benga and representatives of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass. Table 3.1-2 describes other communication that has taken place between Benga and representatives of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.

Table 3.1-1 Meetings with Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	
Date	Description
8/29/2012	Benga meets with Mayor, counsellors and CAO to discuss the proposed purchase of Devon Properties.
11/14/2012	Benga meets with Mayor and CAO following press release by Devon on proposed sale to Benga
10/15/2013	Benga provides a brief progress report of the project to date to the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass at public Council Meeting
1/15/2014	Benga attended a public council meeting and provided a project overview and the GM road access issues.
8/12/2014	Benga Mining Project attended Council Meeting to provide update of project to Mayor and Council and safety issues of motorbikes on the mountain during exploration.
9/29/2014	The mayor of Crowsnest Pass and CAO attended the Benga office to be presented with the Rail Load Out options prior to being presented to the public at the Open House
10/7/2014	Benga met with Mayor, council and CAO to discuss the project and issues that have surfaced as a result of the proposed load outs presented at the recent Open House.
11/25/2014	Benga met with Mayor and CAO to discuss the rail options that were presented at the last Open House. Mayor and CAO were advised that the best option out of the two is the Riverbed Option as it would be the least expensive.
12/5/2014	Meeting with Mayor and CAO to discuss the rail load out options, particularly the potential conflict with proposed Hwy 3 expansion. Transportation Alberta will have to be included in future consultations.
3/20/2015	Benga met with CAO and Mayor and presented a conceptual video of
3/31/2015	Benga met with CAO who provided details on some of the key concerns within the community that Benga can consider addressing that would benefit the community (growing tax base, attracting younger residents).
4/8/2015	Benga attempted a meeting with Community Futures. Only a few were able to attend, so Fire/Rescue, Police, ESRD, some counsellors attended for project update, economic benefits of the project and promotion of the next Open House.
4/20/2015	Benga provides presentation to Mayor, Council and CAO prior to the Open House on April 22.
6/18/2015	Benga in-camera meeting with Mayor and council, Alberta Transportation to discuss the Load Out Option going into the Golf Course and the impact it may have on the proposed Highway 3 expansion.
6/24/2015	Benga in-camera follow-up meeting from June 18 with Mayor and Council to present all of the Load Out Options that were considered and rationale as to why they were not followed up on.
7/13/2015	Benga in-camera follow-up meeting from June 24 with mayor, council, Transportation Alberta and Golf Club to discuss plans required for the project to consider the proposed expansion for Highway 3 and re-build of the golf course.
8/4/2015	Benga meets with CAO to discuss communication planning with mayor and council and community contribution planning.
9/3/2015	Benga meets with mayor and council in open public to introduce Cal Clark, Manager of Sustainable Development. Presentation reviewing the application process and where Benga is in it, then Q&A.
9/16/2015	Benga in-camera meeting with Mayor and council of Municipality of Crowsnest Pass to update on project. Plan meeting to review socio-economic study.
9/30/2015	In-camera meeting with Mayor and Council of Crowsnest Pass, Reeve and Council of MD of Ranchlands to review the draft report from the socio-economic study.

Date	Description
10/14/2015	Benga attended an open meeting with Mayor and Council of Crowsnest Pass to provide an update on the project and discuss recent meetings and taxation considerations.
10/15/2015	Benga met with Mayor and Council of Crowsnest Pass to discuss topics sent for letter-writing campaign along with details on status of sinkhole north of Bellvue on Benga Mining property.
10/25/2015	Benga presented a cash donation to sponsor the Halloween Spooktacular held at the MDM Community Center. The purpose of the event was to give the kids in the community a safer alternative to trick or treating.
10/29/2015	Benga held an Open House at the MDM Community Center.
11/25/2015	In an open meeting, Benga met with Mayor and Council of Crowsnest Pass to discuss the Project, the recent submission of the Application and EIA. In response to a request for comment from a local resident attending the meeting, Mayor Painter stated publicly that the Mayor and Council of Crowsnest Pass are in support of the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.
2/17/2016	Benga met with the Mayor and Council of Crowsnest Pass in public to provide an update on the project, the company's discussions with the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club.
3/30/2016	Benga provided an update on the Project to the Mayor and Council of Crowsnest Pass in an open public meeting.
5/25/2016	Benga provided an update on the Project to the Mayor and Council of Crowsnest Pass in an open public meeting.

Method	Date	Description
Newsletter	3/2/2014	Benga prepared and distributed a newsletter to update the public on project information.
Phone	8/21/2014	Municipality of Crowsnest Pass has agreed to post on their Facebook page that Hunting is not permitted on Benga Mining Property and for hunters to be cautious when hunting on crown land near Grassy Mountain due to the activity that will be continuing throughout the fall.
Email	2014-09-24	Email invitation to a special VIP luncheon at Open House on September 30.
Email	9/24/2014	Email invitation to VIP Luncheon to the Open House
Newsletter	12/5/2014	Email to distribute December 2014 Newsletter to Stakeholders.
Email	12/30/2014	Australia Day on January 26 with a Charity function. Poster mailed out to all stakeholders inviting all to attend. Money raised from the function is donated to local charities.
Email	2/26/2015	Distribution of the Newsletter to Stakeholders from Benga.
Email	3/23/2015	Benga Mining met with Mayor and CAO March 20 to discuss the project and load out option. Mayor Painter forwarded an email reiterating mayor and council's position to not support the rail load out in the river bottom.
Email	4/9/2015	A poster promoting the Benga Open House.
Email	5/5/2015	Email from Benga to Mayor and CAO providing details and Feedback from Open House.
Email	5/8/2015	Letter from Benga to all Stakeholders on Benga advising of outcome of April 22 Open House and Golf

Table 3.1-2 Other Correspondence with Municipality of Crowsnest Pass		
Method	Date	Description
		Course Load Out Option going to be focus of project.
Email	5/13/2015	An email of a letter explaining the Grassy Mountain Road and Benga's commitment to assist property owners adjacent to Grassy Mountain and MD of Ranchland to assist them in alternative went out to the property owners, a copy was sent to the CAO of the Municipality of CNP for their information.
Email	9/17/2015	Email planning a meeting with Mayor and Council of Crowsnest Pass to review results of the Socio-Economic Study on September 30, 2015. The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass extended the invitation to this meeting to the MD of Ranchlands.
Email	10/13/2015	Benga emailed a poster promoting the Open House scheduled October 29 to all Stakeholders on email list.
Email	12/7/2015	Benga emailed notification of the EIA submission to the AEER and CEAA to the Stakeholder email list. Links to the AER website where the application is posted was included, along with the notification from the AER.
Email	12/17/2015	Benga sent an email with an attached poster invitation for the Australia Day celebrations to be held on January 23, 2016.
Email	12/18/2015	Sheldon Steinke submitted a Statement of Concern regarding the Grassy Mountain Project on behalf of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.
Email	1/29/2016	The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass submitted an SOC to the AER regarding the Grassy Mountain Project.
Newsletter	2/16/2016	Approximately 25 copies of the Winter 2016 Project newsletter, titled "The Conveyor", were dropped off at the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass office for the public to take as required.
Email – Newsletter	2/16/2016	Benga distributed the Winter 2016 Project newsletter to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.
Email	3/29/2016	Benga sent an email with a letter advising that the information sessions that were schedule April 5 to 7 in Pincher Creek, Sparwood and Crowsnest Pass have been canceled and that notice will go out upon rescheduling.
Email - Newsletter	5/2/2016	Benga distributed the Spring 2016 Project Newsletter to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.

Municipal District of Ranchland

Benga engaged early with the MD of Ranchland as well. An Open Public Forum was held initially at the MD of Ranchland on February 5, 2013 where the current team was introduced, the project plans were presented and Benga's executives fielded questions from the public. Benga continues to meet regularly with the Reeve and council not just to update them on the project, but to keep them apprised of the consultations with the "property owners adjacent to Grassy Mountain" (who are also MD of Ranchland's ratepayers). On July 7, 2015 Benga took the Reeve and Council on a tour of the Grassy Mountain Site. The MD also receives invitations to Open Houses and Public Forums put on by Benga and at least one representative has always attended.

The MD of Ranchland is also part of a further plan that includes the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass. As the project progresses into construction and eventual operation, consideration will have to be made for various contingencies that the MD of Ranchland will be unable to provide and need to turn to Crowsnest Pass.

Table 3.1-3 describes the in-person meetings that have been held between Benga and representatives of the MD of Ranchland. Table 3.1-4 describes other communication that has taken place between Benga and representatives of the MD of Ranchland.

Date	Description
2/5/2013	Benga met with the MD of Ranchland at public meeting to introduce themselves, provide presentation and discuss the recent purchase of the property from Devon and the company's operation plans.
11/4/2014	Benga updates MD of Ranchland Reeve and council on Grassy Mountain Project. Specifically the future plans for Grassy Mtn Road. Rail Load Out, Impact on land owners and promote the Open House.
3/31/2015	CAO of Ranchland taken on tour of Grassy Mtn area to scout out the road and potential alternatives for the property owners adjacent to Grassy Mtn.
5/19/2015	Benga and Nichol Applied Mgt met with MD Ranchland to acquire information required to conduct a socio-economic study.
7/7/2015	Benga took the five participants from the MD of Ranchland on a site tour. The tour began with some of the mine structures at the Greenhill Mine then site structures at the front of the mine, the future Grassy Mountain Road and where the conveyor belt is going to run.
9/14/2015	Benga meeting with MD of Ranchland to provide update on project. Interest was given on attending Socio-economic presentation to Municipality of Crowsnest Pass on Sept. 30. To be discussed with Crowsnest Pass Mayor and Council.
9/30/2015	In-camera meeting with Mayor and council of Crowsnest Pass, Reeve and council of MD of Ranchlands to review the draft report from the socio-economic study.
10/29/2015	Benga hosted an Open House at the MDM Community Centre.
12/15/2015	Benga representatives attended a meeting with MD of Ranchlands Reeve and Council to provide an update on the Project. Benga addressed questions regarding the regulatory process and selenium.
1/7/2016	Benga representatives attended the SACPA Luncheon in Lethbridge, which was also attended by G. Brkich. Mr. Brkich advised that the Brewerton property is now in the name of Benga Mining.
5/2/2016	Representatives of Benga attended a meeting with Reeve and Council of MD of Ranchlands. Benga provided an update on the Project, timeframes, and access issues affecting landowners adjacent to Grassy Mountain.

Method	Date	Description
Email	4/3/2014	Benga Mining forwarded an email to MD Ranchland CAO requesting information on some of the land owners in the Grassy Mountain area.
Email	9/23/2014	Benga invite MD of Ranchland to VIP Luncheon of Open House The invitation for the Reeve is an open invitation for any representative of the MD of Ranchland.
Email	11/28/2014	Benga email invitation to MD of Ranchland for Christmas Open House at Benga Office.
Email	12/5/2014	Email to distribute December 2014 Newsletter to Stakeholders.
Email	12/30/2014	Benga is celebrating Australia Day on January 26 with a Charity function. Poster mailed out to all

Table 3.1-4 Other Correspondence with the MD of Ranchland		
Method	Date	Description
		stakeholders inviting all to attend. Money raised from the function is donated to local charities.
Email	4/3/2014	Benga Mining forwarded an email to MD Ranchland CAO requesting information on some of the land owners in the Grassy Mountain area.
Email	9/23/2014	Benga invite MD of Ranchland to VIP Luncheon of Open House The invitation for the Reeve is an open invitation for any representative of the MD of Ranchland.
Email	11/28/2014	Benga email invitation to MD of Ranchland for Christmas Open House at Benga Office.
Email	12/5/2014	Email to distribute December 2014 Newsletter to Stakeholders.
Email	12/30/2014	Benga is celebrating Australia Day on January 26 with a Charity function. Poster mailed out to all stakeholders inviting all to attend. Money raised from the function is donated to local charities.
Email	2/26/2015	Distribution of the Newsletter to Stakeholders who have expressed an interest in receiving information and updates from Benga.
Email	2/27/2015	Email MD of Ranchland requesting a meeting with us and council at the end March or beginning of April. Meeting for April 7 set.
Email	4/9/2015	A poster promoting the Open House sent out on Benga mass email list.
Email	5/5/2015	Email to MD of Ranchland with advance notice of letter that will be going out to all Stakeholders regarding outcome of Open House.
Email	5/8/2015	Letter from Benga going out to all Stakeholders on Benga Email List advising of outcome of April 22 Open House and Golf Course Load Out Option going to be focus of project.
Email	5/13/2015	Advance email of letter to property owners next to Grassy Mountain advising of future of Grassy Mountain Road and assistance from Benga to establish an alternative.
Email	9/17/2015	Benga is planning a meeting with the Mayor and Council of the Crowsnest Pass to review the results of the Socio-Economic study September 30, 2015. At a meeting between Benga and Ranchland, they expressed an interest in this meeting and when the Municipality was advised of this, they decided to extend the invitation out to the MD of Ranchland. Benga in on the email invitation to Ranchland.
Email	10/13/2015	Benga emailed a poster promoting the Open House scheduled for October 29 to all Stakeholders on email distribution list.
Email	11/26/2015	Benga sent an email to G. Brkich to set up a meeting with MD of Ranchlands on December 9. G. Brkich suggested December 15.
Email	12/2/2015	Benga an email to CAO Brkich of the MD of Ranchland advising that a copy of the EIA was dropped off at their office and asking for confirmation that it had been received. The email also confirmed a meeting to be held on December 15, 2015. Mr. Brkich responded confirming both.
Email	12/7/2015	Benga emailed notification of the EIA submission to the AER and CEAA. Links to the AER website where the application is posted was included in the email, as was the notification from the AER.
Email – Newsletter	2/16/2016	Benga distributed the Winter 2016 Project newsletter, titled “The Conveyor”, to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.
Mail	2/18/2016	Benga distributed hard copies of the Winter 2016 Project Newsletter to Stakeholders in the MD of Ranchland.
Email	12/17/2015	Benga sent an email to the Stakeholder email distribution list with an attached poster invitation to

Table 3.1-4 Other Correspondence with the MD of Ranchland		
Method	Date	Description
		the Australia Day celebration to be held on January 23, 2016.
Email	1/15/2016	Niven submitted a Statement of Concern regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project on behalf of the MD of Ranchlands.
Email	3/29/2016	Benga sent an email with a letter advising that the information sessions that were schedule April 5 to 7 in Pincher Creek, Sparwood and Crowsnest Pass have been canceled and that notice will go out upon rescheduling.
Email - Newsletter	5/2/2016	Benga distributed the Spring 2016 Project Newsletter to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.

Town of Pincher Creek

Benga attended a public council meeting in Pincher Creek on April 14, 2014 and provided a project overview to the Mayor and Council. Benga again attended a public Pincher Creek council meeting in December 14, 2015 to provide an update on the project and its status in the regulatory process, to discuss feedback from the October 29, 2015 Open House, and to provide highlights of the socio-economic assessment. The Mayor and Council expressed support for the project citing the opportunity that it provides for the community. On January 13, 2016, the Mayor and other representatives of Pincher Creek visited the office of Benga Mining to discuss the potential for housing employees in Pincher Creek.

Pincher Creek's water supply originates from the Crowsnest Pass, so this is the biggest concern they have for the project. Pincher Creek has several businesses that could provide services to the construction and maintenance of the mine. The Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Committee has paid particularly close attention to the progress of the project.

The Town of Pincher Creek receives invitations to all of Benga's Open Houses and Public Forums and a representative has attended. [Table 3.1-5](#) reviews recent correspondence between Benga and Town of Pincher Creek, excluding meetings which are discussed above.

Table 3.1-5 Other Correspondence with the Town of Pincher Creek		
Method	Date	Description
Email	10/13/2015	Benga emailed a poster promoting the Open House scheduled for October 29 to all Stakeholders on email distribution list.
Email	12/7/2015	Benga emailed notification of the EIA submission to the AER and CEAA. Links to the AER website where the application is posted was included in the email, as was the notification from the AER.
Email	12/17/2015	Benga sent an email to the Stakeholder email distribution list with an attached poster invitation to the Australia Day celebration to be held on January 23, 2016.
Email	12/23/2015	The Town of Pincher Creek submitted a Statement of Concern regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.
Email	12/29/2015	The Town of Pincher Creek submitted a Statement of Concern regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project EIA. Benga Mining emailed a letter of acknowledgement.

Method	Date	Description
Email – Newsletter	2/16/2016	Benga distributed the Winter 2016 Project newsletter, titled “The Conveyor”, to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.
Mail	2/18/2016	Benga distributed hard copies of the Winter 2016 Project Newsletter to Stakeholders in the Town of Pincher Creek.
Email	3/29/2016	Benga sent an email with a letter advising that the information sessions that were schedule April 5 to 7 in Pincher Creek, Sparwood and Crowsnest Pass have been canceled and that notice will go out upon rescheduling.
Email - Newsletter	5/2/2016	Benga distributed the Spring 2016 Project Newsletter to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.
Email	5/26/2016	Mayor Anderberg of Pincher Creek requested to be added to Benga’s email list. Benga confirmed that he had been added and forwarded copies of the two most recent issues of the Project newsletter.
Email	5/26/2016	Councillor Litkowsk of Pincher Creek requested to be added to Benga’s email list. Benga confirmed that he had been added and forwarded copies of the two most recent issues of the Project newsletter.

Municipal District of Pincher Creek

On March 11, 2014 Benga made a presentation to the Reeve and Council of the MD of Pincher Creek. Similar to the Town of Pincher Creek, their major concern is water. On December 8, 2015, Benga attended a council meeting with the Reeve and Council of Pincher creek to provide an update on the project. The meeting was followed by an in camera meeting to discuss Benga’s potential purchase of property in, and owned by the MD of Pincher Creek for reasons unrelated to the Grassy Mountain Project.

The MD of Pincher Creek is also on Benga’s email list for notices, newsletters and updates and a representative has always attended. [Table 3.1-6](#) reviews recent correspondence between Benga and the MD of Pincher Creek, excluding meetings which are discussed above.

Method	Date	Description
Email	11/5/2016	Email from R. Milligan advising Benga of an in camera meeting scheduled for November 10, 2015 to discuss Benga’s purchase of property in the MD of Pincher Creek.
Email	10/13/2015	Benga emailed a poster promoting the Open House scheduled for October 29 to all Stakeholders on email distribution list.
Email	12/7/2015	Benga emailed notification of the EIA submission to the AER and CEAA. Links to the AER website where the application is posted was included in the email, as was the notification from the AER.
Email	12/17/2015	Benga sent an email to the Stakeholder email distribution list with an attached poster invitation to the Australia Day celebration to be held on January 23, 2016.
Email – Newsletter	2/16/2016	Benga distributed the Winter 2016 Project newsletter, titled “The Conveyor”, to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.
Mail	2/18/2016	Benga distributed hard copies of the Winter 2016 Project Newsletter to Stakeholders in the MD of

Method	Date	Description
		Pincher Creek.
Email	3/29/2016	Benga sent an email with a letter advising that the information sessions that were schedule April 5 to 7 in Pincher Creek, Sparwood and Crowsnest Pass have been canceled and that notice will go out upon rescheduling.
Email - Newsletter	5/2/2016	Benga distributed the Spring 2016 Project Newsletter to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.

District of Sparwood

Businesses in Sparwood are primarily coal mining services and the District of Sparwood has identified some benefit to these businesses from the Grassy Mountain Project. On November 30, 2015, Benga attended a council meeting in Sparwood to discuss the project and its recent submission of application and EIA. Benga has included the District of Sparwood on the email list for notices, newsletters and updates and a representative has always attended. A summary of recent correspondence is discussed in [Table 3.1-7](#).

Method	Date	Description
Email	10/13/2015	Benga emailed a poster promoting the Open House scheduled for October 29 to all Stakeholders on email distribution list.
Email	12/7/2015	Benga emailed notification of the EIA submission to the AER and CEAA. Links to the AER website where the application is posted was included in the email, as was the notification from the AER.
Email	12/17/2015	Benga sent an email to the Stakeholder email distribution list with an attached poster invitation to the Australia Day celebration to be held on January 23, 2016.
Email – Newsletter	2/16/2016	Benga distributed the Winter 2016 Project newsletter, titled “The Conveyor”, to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.
Email	3/29/2016	Benga sent an email with a letter advising that the information sessions that were schedule April 5 to 7 in Pincher Creek, Sparwood and Crowsnest Pass have been canceled and that notice will go out upon rescheduling.
Email - Newsletter	5/2/2016	Benga distributed the Spring 2016 Project Newsletter to the recipients on the Stakeholder email distribution list.

Residents of Crowsnest Pass (Coleman, Blairmore, Frank, Hillcrest and Bellevue)

Most “Methods of Communication” identified in (2.b) are to either provide information/notification regarding the project or provide an opportunity to acquire input from the many groups and organizations. The residents of Crowsnest Pass are key stakeholders in the project and in order to seek the feedback of those outside of the identified groups and organizations, Benga have engaged the general public through Open Houses/Public Forums and the results are outlined in Community Feedback (3.b). The Community Office is also a location and opportunity for the public to provide input, but walk-ins have been primarily to gain information on the project, be added to the email list or to provide a resume in pursuit of employment. Little feedback has been

acquired at the Community Office and it appears the general public feel more confident “speaking out” in the company of their peers.

There have been approximately 143 resumes for employment turned in at the Community office as of June 15, 2016. There have been many others come in to the office inquiring about employment and the timelines for hiring. They were provided a project update and often provided their contact information to be added to the email list.

Landowners

Property Owners in the immediate vicinity of the Project

There are ten privately owned quarter sections adjacent to Grassy Mountain. Some are owned by local residents, but most are owned by out-of-towners (ie: Calgary, Lethbridge, etc.). The mine site will be adjacent to approximately five of these properties and will likely be more impacted than the other five. The access to these properties is Grassy Mountain Road and privately owned by Benga has also become a concern due to its unforeseeable existence and the safety factors that will come in to play with public access on a mine road. Benga has engaged early and often with property owners in the vicinity of the project, having held a minimum of 139 in-person meeting with landowners as of mid-June 2016 and routinely communicating by email and phone as well. Benga has, and will continue to keep property owners on the email distribution list for project updates, notices, and newsletters.

Grazing Leases in the immediate vicinity of the Project

There is a single owner of Grazing Leases on crown land that consist of ten quarter sections in vicinity of Grassy Mountain. Benga has communicated frequently with this lessee, and has occasionally hired him to conduct site security. His knowledge of the area makes him an ideal candidate for this job. In recent months the lease has changed hands. Accordingly, Benga has initiated engagement with this new lessee, starting with a meeting on April 4, 2016, during which Benga and the new lessee discussed Project updates and potential effects.

The Gold Creek Grazing Coop, of whom the original single lessee is a member, leases approximately fourteen quarter sections in the Grassy Mountain area from the crown and used to lease the properties now owned by Benga. Gold Creek continues to utilize Benga property for grazing, but at no charge. In turn Benga has required access through the leased properties by the single lessee and the Gold Creek Grazing Gold in order to conduct exploration. Benga has been in frequent contact members of the Gold Creek Grazing Coop to conduct business and to discuss future grazing over the course of construction and operation of Grassy Mountain Mine. These discussions are ongoing. In recent developments, Benga met with representatives of the Gold Creek Grazing Coop on May 15, 2016 to give an up-to-date assessment of plans for the Project as well as potential impacts and mitigations. After conferring with their coop, the Gold Creek Grazing representatives responded to Benga on June 8, 2016 with a request for further details, which Benga is in the process of developing at the time of this filing.

Benga is committed to meeting with the single lessee and Gold Creek Grazing Coop to ensure a continued line of communication with these stakeholders. Both parties are on Benga email distribution list for project updates, notices, and newsletters. Both lease-holders have also attended the Open Houses hosted by Benga. On January 15, 2016, a Statement of Concern regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project was submitted on behalf of The Gold Creek Grazing Coop and the single lessee.

Trappers in the Vicinity of the Project

There are three trappers in the area of the Grassy Mountain Project. One is adjacent to the project site, the other is in the close vicinity and the other is in the area. Regular communication for two of these trappers is required as a result of exploration projects. Notifications are delivered, as required, depending upon the location of the projects. What this means is the trapper adjacent to the project site is notified for pretty much all exploration and the second is notified only if there are activities near his claim. The third trapper has not necessitated notifications at this time.

On February 19, 2014 the first trapper (adjacent to project site) and his son met with Benga and discussed their concerns. The trap line has been in their family for fifty years and they are concerned about how it will impact their trap line. It does not appear that the mine operations will be in there area until late in the life of the mine, but they have concerns about how that may impact them. Benga followed up in another meeting on May 25, 2016 to refine an understanding on the potential impacts the Project may present. The trapper expressed that the area of impact lays outside of his primary trapping area but that he remains concerned about access from the south to his cabin. Benga continues to engage with this trapper to establish a consent document that will include an access agreement. Benga has, and will continue to include this trapper on the email distribution list for project updates, notices, and newsletters.

On May 10, 2016, Benga met with the second trapper to discuss the proposed Project and any impacts that it may present. This discussion is on-going. Benga has, and will continue to include this trapper on the email distribution list for project updates, notices, and newsletters.

On March 10, 2015 Benga met up with the third trapper. He resides in the MD of Ranchland, but used to be a school teacher in Crowsnest Pass. An overview of the project was provided to him. He provided no concerns for the project in regards to the impact of his trap line. He observed the economic value to the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and went on to say that the wildlife and industry is capable of coexisting just fine.

Economic and Community Development

Crowsnest Chamber of Commerce

On September 10, 2014 Benga gave a presentation to the Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce at their monthly Chamber Luncheon. The presentation was to provide an update of the project. Then again on April 8, 2014 the Managing Director of Benga provided an update at the Chamber Breakfast and promoted the upcoming Open House. Benga is a supporter of the CNP Chamber by being a member, regularly attending their luncheons and participating in many of their events (ie: Trade Show). The CNP Chamber of Commerce is also on Benga email list for notices, newsletters and updates. Often, the Chamber posts items sent out by Benga on their email list as well.

Crowsnest Pass Community Futures

It is in the best interests or Benga to engage with this group if Benga also identifies themselves as source to increase growth and sustainability within the Crowsnest Pass. On April 8, 2015 Benga attempted to meet with Community Futures. Only a few of their members were able to attend, so a meeting was held that also included the Fire/Rescue, RCMP, ESRD and a couple of Municipal council members were also present. Discussion consisted of a project update, economics of the project, timelines and the next Open House was also promoted.

Community Futures will have to be considered as part of the Community Plan for Benga's contribution to the community. To that end, Benga has included Community Futures on email distribution lists for Project updates and newsletters.

Crowsnest Pass Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee (EDTAC)

Much like Community Futures, EDTAC's main objective is the development of the local economy. On March 18, 2015 Benga met with John Pundyk, the chair of the EDTAC and discussed the project. Mr. Pundyk is not a supporter of the rail load out options and would not provide any issues. Benga has concerns with the community unable to manage the potential population growth with the construction and operation of the mine. Mr. Pundyk would only say that the community would be able to handle it. Benga has identified the importance of engaging the EDTAC and will continue communications. To this end, Benga has, and will continue to include EDTAC on the email distribution list for notices, newsletters, and updates related to the Project.

Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce

The community of Pincher Creek has services that would be able to support the construction and maintenance of the mine. On September 17, 2014 Benga conducted a presentation to the Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce. A representative from Benga again presented to the Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce on October 14, 2015, offering details of the economic study and fielding questions related to water and traffic. The following day, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce requested a member of Benga join the Chamber Board.

The Chamber has provided names and contact information for service providers to Benga for reference as required. Benga has, and will continue to include the Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce on the email distribution list for notices, newsletters, and updates related to the Project. A representative from the Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce attended at the Open Houses.

Pincher Creek Economic Development Committee

On June 26, 2014 Benga conducted a presentation to the Pincher Creek Economic Development Committee. Similar to the Chamber of Commerce, they recognize some opportunity for their local business as well. Benga has, and will continue to include the Pincher Creek Economic Development Committee on the email distribution list for notices, newsletters, and updates related to the Project. Representatives of the Committee have attended the Open Houses hosted by Benga.

Government Authorities

Alberta Energy Regulator (AER)

Due to the Exploration Projects conducted by Benga, there has been frequent communication with the AER. Communication has consisted of email, phone, and in-person communications to discuss matters related to the regulatory process. Benga keeps the AER apprised of consultation updates, project notices and upcoming information sessions. Indeed, the AER has attended Open House information sessions designed to provide the community up-to-date information on the Project and its development. Representatives from the AER has been physically on-site on several occasions to inspect for compliance.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)

Benga has engaged with CEAA, primarily via email communication, to discuss matters related to the federal regulatory process. Benga keeps CEAA apprised of consultation updates, project notices and upcoming information sessions. Representatives of CEAA have participated in information sessions held with First Nations stakeholders.

Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO)

Benga has engaged with the ACO by phone and email communication, to discuss matters related to the Aboriginal consultation and Benga's reporting requirements to document consultation with First Nation and Aboriginal groups (e.g., Consultation Plan, technical reports).

Alberta Energy and Sustainable Resources Development (ESRD)

The environmental studies required of the AER and CEAA application for the mine permit requires us to consult with ESRD regularly in regards to Fish, Wildlife and Vegetation. As required by the AER when applying for exploration permits, there are usually at least two divisions of ESRD that require notification and approval. Examples of areas of ESRD we have contacted are Fescue Grass, Potential Timber Disposal and Watershed Buffer Zone dispositions. Several of the ESRD representatives are on the email list for updates, newsletters and notices. Representatives of the ESRD attended the Grassy Mountain Project Open House information sessions.

Transportation Alberta

One of the Rail Load Out options required the train to take a spur off the rail line and underneath Highway 3. Transportation Alberta (TA) was engaged as a result. At the April 22, 2015 Open House, the community identified this option as the preferred option and TA has been engaged significantly since. TA also has future plans for widening Highway 3. As a result they have also been a part of closed meetings with Benga and the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass to ensure the community representatives are aware of the considerations.

Community Service/Civic Awareness:

Crowsnest Museum / Historical Society

Crowsnest Pass has a very rich history and would be considered to be a tourist attraction/economic resource to the community. Benga has supported many of the events put on by the Historical Society through attendance and sponsorship. Benga's plan to contribute to the economic development of the community designates a role for the Crowsnest Museum / Historical Society. To that end, Benga has supported the society through its financial support for the Harvest of Memories Gala on September 26, 2015.

Benga has, and will continue to include the Crowsnest Museum / Historical Society on the email distribution list for notices, newsletters and updates related to the Project. A representative from the Society attended the Open House hosted by Benga on October 29, 2015.

Bellevue Underground Mine

The Bellevue Mine is a separate entity to the Crowsnest Historical Society, but still a tourist attraction. Benga has already partnered with the Bellevue Mine in some of their projects and events through participation and sponsorship. The Bellevue Mine will also play a role as part of Benga's plan to contribute to the economic development of the community.

Crowsnest Cultural and Recreation Society (Can-do)

The Crowsnest Cultural and Recreation Society (Can-do) is a non-profit society created to raise funds, construction, maintenance and operation of a recreation complex and cultural center in the community. Benga has already sponsored events put on by Can-do. As the planning of this center is in the early stages, considerations for Benga's involvement will have to be made as the planning progresses.

Southern Alberta Council on Public Affairs

The Southern Alberta Council on Public Affairs (SACPA) is a not-for-profit registered society and independent forum to debate provincial, national, and international issues of concern to the residents of Lethbridge and Southern Alberta. At SACPA's request, Benga delivered a presentation on the Grassy Mountain Coal Project, covering such topics as the history of mining in the Crowsnest Pass and Grassy Mountain area, the regulatory process and some highlights from the socio-economic report, followed by a question and answer period.

Social, Health and Emergency Services

Crowsnest Pass Fire/Rescue

Although the Grassy Mountain Project Site is inside the MD of Ranchland the nearest emergency service provider is Crowsnest Pass and will be dispatched from here. This has been an important consideration for the exploration projects that have and will be conducted. It will also be a significant consideration for the mine construction and operation.

Currently Benga and Crowsnest Pass Fire/Rescue have a very good social relationship. Benga has taken the hierarchy of Fire/Rescue annually on a site tour to ensure their familiarity to the designated emergency areas, helipads and road system. A copy of the map of roads has also been supplied to them for their reference. Benga radio frequencies have been supplied and added to the Fire/Rescue radios not only to provide on-site radio coverage, but to provide them with another option for other emergencies in the area. Benga Wildfire Action Plan also involves Crowsnest Pass Fire/Rescue as they will likely be the first responders to a wildfire until the provincial wildfire technologists are able to attend and take over.

Because the local Fire/Rescue will be a primary responder to mine rescue, they will have to be continuously engaged for emergency response plans as the overall mine plans progress.

Crowsnest Pass RCMP

Benga also has a unique connection to the RCMP that makes communications with them as much social as it is professional. Communications with the RCMP will take on a different need in the progression of the mine. There will be a temporary population increase to the community of approximately 1500 people for the construction of the mine. This is something that the RCMP will have to take into consideration. After the completion of the construction, there will be a permanent increase that the RCMP will also have to plan for.

Crowsnest Pass Emergency Services

The Crowsnest Pass is a support for the Fire/Rescue and are a part of the emergency plan engagement. They will also have to be at the table during further emergency planning with the Fire/Rescue.

Environment

Crowsnest Pass Conservation Society

Benga has met for a formal meeting twice since March 31, 2015 with the Crowsnest Conservation Society (CCS). The group recognizes the economic benefits to the community, but not without exercising environmental responsibility. On June 25, 2015 three members of the CCS were taken on a site tour. On August 20, 2015 Richard Cooke of the CCS advised that he would be submitting a letter as part of the hearing for the project informing the authorities of their environmental concerns. On October 1, 2015, Benga met with CCS to discuss issues related to some recent bad press regarding Gold Creek. The CCS submitted a Statement of Concern regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project on January 15, 2016, with Benga issuing a confirmation letter response on January 29, 2015.

The CCS have their finger on the environmental issues within the community and are an excellent resource for establishing areas of interest for environmental programs to support. They are also very reputable champions to environmental programs that Benga will be interested in participating. Benga has already assisted the CCS by sponsoring the Wildsight Program.

Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is a society that protects areas of natural diversity through creative conservation. A representative from Benga sat in on an "Expert Feedback Workshop" on June 25, 2015. The NCC has a number of local projects planned that Benga Resource could support.

Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition

Benga reached out with an email to the Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition CCWC in regards to a proposed project in the Adanac area to the south of Crowsnest Pass and they replied on March 9, 2015 advising that they were not interested in a meeting with Benga that "might simply provide your company with an opportunity to claim that we endorse any such proposal". No further engagement has been attempted, they are on the email list for project notices, updates and newsletters.

Alberta Wilderness Association

Benga Resource reached out to Alberta Wilderness Association and had a lunch meeting with them on September 11 and they were taken on a site tour after. Benga has since followed up by forwarding a copy of the EIA submission in December, 2015. The Alberta Wilderness Association submitted a Statement of Concern on December 22, 2015, with Benga replying by emailed letter confirming the Statement of Concern.

Trout Unlimited

Benga has reached out to Trout Unlimited. They have been too busy to set anything up to date. There are some projects the Benga are considering that would make Trout Unlimited a good partner.

Oldman Watershed Council

The Oldman Watershed Council (OWC) is a community-based not-for-profit that works with stakeholders to find practical solutions to environmental challenges. On January 15, 2016, the OWC submitted a Statement of Concern regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project. Benga responded on January 29, 2016 with a letter. Benga has subsequently included the OWC on the project newsletter distribution list.

Wildlife and Habitat

Hillcrest Fish and Game Protective Association

Benga provided a project overview to the Hillcrest Fish and Game and fielded questions related to the Project and a representative of the group has attended each of the Open Houses hosted by Benga. Given that hunting and Fishing is a key tourist attraction in Crowsnest Pass, Benga believes that the Hillcrest Fish and Game Protective Association is an important participant in their local economic development planning. As such, Benga has supported the Hillcrest Fish and Game Protective Association's endeavors, including by sponsoring the Bighorn Sheep Monitoring program, and providing gifts for the 2016 annual trophy night.

Benga has, and will continue to include the Hillcrest Fish and Game Protective Association on the email distribution list for notices, newsletters, and updates related to the Project.

Ducks Unlimited Crowsnest Pass

Ducks Unlimited are also very strong and influential conservationists. Benga and the local Ducks Unlimited chapter have supported each other through sponsorship of their respective events.

Recreational

Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club

On September 29, 2014, Benga confirmed to the public that the Golf Course was one of the considerations for a Rail Load Out location. At this time, Benga immediately engaged the Golf Course in discussions. Ultimately, at the April 22, 2015 Open House, the community identified the Golf Course location as the preferred option. In the ensuing time period, the Golf Course participated in an in camera meeting on June 24, 2015 with the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass. At that meeting, the Municipality requested to be updated on the current discussions with the Golf Club and the plans for replacing the holes that will be impacted by the Load Out. The Golf Course informed the Municipality that there was limited time for planning in order to minimize the impact of the Golf Course and reduce the risk of having to operate with less than a full golf course at any time during the golf season.

Nonetheless, the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club has supported Benga in the work that they have put forward to assist in designing the plans. A number for Golf Course representative attended the October 29, 2015 Open House and, on January 4, 2016, a representative from the Golf Course submitted a Letter of Support to the AER regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project. Benga has, and will continue to include the

Crowsnest Golf and Country Club on the email distribution list for notices, newsletters, and updates related to the Project.

Benga has sponsored six golf tournaments put on by the Crowsnest Pass Golf Club. The improvement that are planned for the Golf Course will make this a further tourist attraction for the community and they will be a key partner to the plan for economic development.

CNP Quad Squad

The Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad is a family-based organization aimed at promoting responsible use of Alberta's Southern Rockies, ensuring the conservation and preservation of our wilderness areas for the continued use by future generations.

Crowsnest Pass is one of the last few mountainous terrains left where quading is not prohibited. This is also a key tourist attraction to the community. Benga recently accompanied the Quad Squad through their private property for a day ride on July 18, 2015. On December 11, 2015 a representative from the Quad Squad visited the Benga office to discuss participation in the Gold Creek stewardship program. Then on March 21, 2016, at the Quad Squad's invitation, Benga attended a Board meeting to discuss details of work in the Gold Creek area.

Benga has a good social relationship with the Quad Squad and considers them as partners in Benga's economic planning for the community. Benga has further supported the Quad Squad's preservation work through financial support, as well as by providing access to Benga property as required. Benga has, and will continue to include the Quad Squad on the email distribution list for notices, newsletters, and updates related to the Project.

United Riders of Crowsnest

Benga met with the United Riders of Crowsnest Pass (UROC) on July 13, 2015 and discussed their vision for Crowsnest Pass. UROC has created trails on the south side of the Pass Powder Keg Ski Hill and have promoted mountain biking in Crowsnest Pass. They have created another tourist attraction to the Crowsnest Pass. They are also an organization required at the table for Benga's economic development plan. To that end, Benga met with representatives from the UROC on September 9, 2015 to discuss the UROC's plans for the area and how to best work together to support those plans. On December 9, 2015 the UROC visited Benga's office to discuss logistics for access to Benga property for planned trail development.

Benga has, and will continue to include the UROC on the email distribution list for notices, newsletters, and updates related to the Project.

Crow Snow Riders

Crow Snow Riders is a local snowmobiling club, also a key attraction to the Crowsnest Pass. Benga has, and will continue to include the Crow Snow Riders on the email distribution list for notices, newsletters. The Crow Snow Riders receive notifications for applications for Coal Exploration Projects and a representative from the group has attended up the Open Houses hosted by Benga.

Private Campgrounds

Crowsnest Pass Campgrounds – Passburg District

The Crowsnest Pass Campgrounds is located along Highway 3 about 2 kilometers east of Bellvue and consists of 21 full service sites and 13 tenting. Built initially for just overnight travelers, one stop camping six years ago. There are a few people now who spend several days. They do not want long term/seasonal. They send those who ask to Crowsnest Pass RV Park. Used to do snowmobile and ATV tours up Grassy Mountain, but stopped due to liabilities. Only issue would be recreational access to Grassy Mountain as it is accessible from their point and many of their clients are there for the ATV'ing.

Hiawatha Campgrounds – Burmis District

The Hiawatha Campgrounds have been around since the 70's or 80's. It is located approximately two kilometers south of Highway 3 on Highway 507. The current proprietors purchased it about 9 years ago. It is seasonal camping, so campers pay annual fees and stay set up year round. No quading of any kind is allowed, so there is no recreational access. Most of the campers are there for the fishing or just to get away from the city. The only concern proposed is the impact on the fish in Gold Creek, because many of their clients are fishermen that fish Gold Creek.

Lost Lemon Campgrounds – Blairmore

Lost Lemon Campgrounds are located on the edge of Crowsnest River on the west end of Blairmore. It was established in 1962 and the current owners took over in 2003. The campers are generally annual return customers in the area to take advantage of the recreational activities available to Crowsnest Pass and stay for several days. The proprietors understand that the community requires some industry to boost the economy, but have some concerns about potential coal dust from the Load Out as the proposed location is not far from their campgrounds. In September 25, 2015, Benga met with the proprietors of the Lost Lemon Campground to discuss the ways in which the Project may affect their operations, and has included the Lost Lemon campground in the email distribution list project updates, invitations, and newsletters. A representative from the Lost Lemon Campground attended the October 29, 2015 Open House.

In April 2016, the Lost Lemon Campground volunteered to serve as a sampling location for air sampling activities being conducted on Benga's behalf.

Crowsnest RV Park – Coleman

The Crowsnest RV Park is located on the west end of Coleman near the location of the old Coleman Collieries on the south side of the valley. It has only been in existence for two years and has 125 stalls that are currently full. They cater to the long term camper that book for the entire year and often leave their trailer year round. The proprietor has eighty other stalls planned and property to build other living accommodations in anticipation for the project. They vision the economic benefit of the project to the community, have plans in place to develop further, but are waiting for the project to get approval before investing in it.

Crowsnest Mountain Resort

The Crowsnest Mountain Resort is a 69 acre block of land along Highway 3 about 10 kilometers west of the Blairmore Center Access. The current proprietor built it in 1997 and it consists of 90 RV sites with half being seasonal and half year round. All sites are long term and they do not cater to the person passing through and stopping in for one night. The Chinook Lake Provincial Campgrounds are just down the road and caters to this clientele. The only concern the proprietor could identify was the potential impact the project may have on tourism.

Open Houses and Public Forums

Open House/Public Forum 1 – February 6, 2013 – Elks Hall, Blairmore, Alberta

Benga conducted the first Open House/Public Forum for the Grassy Mountain Project in the community of Blairmore in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta on February 6, 2013.

Approximately 60 people who attended had the opportunity to ask the Executive Chair of Benga, the Managing Director and President questions about the Grassy Mountain Project. The Open House just announced the purchase of the Coal Leases from Devon, so planning of the project was in the early stages. Details of the project were in the early stages at this point. The purpose of the Open Public Forum was to:

- Announce the transaction of the properties and coal leases from Devon Canada
- Introduce the executives of Benga to the public
- Outline the early plans for the Grassy Mountain Project

Some of the questions that were raised and fielded by Benga was in regards to:

- Why the Grassy Mountain Project

Open House/Public Forum 2 – October 15, 2012 – Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex

Benga conducted the second Open House/Public Forum for the Grassy Mountain Project in the community of Coleman in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta on October 22, 2013.

Approximately 150 people turned out for the Managing Director, CFO and the Operations Manager to address them on the proposed plans for the Grassy Mountain Project. The purpose of the Public Forum was intended to:

- Provide details regarding the proposed exploration for the Grassy Mountain Project
- Commencement of the Environmental Study
- Planned life time of the project
- Proposed transportation of the finished product

- Announcement of its office in Blairmore

Some of the questions that were raised and fielded by Benga was in regards to:

- Increased traffic and noise volume on highway number 3
- Wildlife
- Water

Open House/Public Forum 3 – May 29, 2014 – Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex, Coleman, Alberta

Benga conducted the third Open House/Public Forum for the Grassy Mountain Project in the community of Coleman in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta on May 29, 2014.

Approximately 50 people attended for the Managing Director, CFO, Operations Manager, Community Liaison and newly appointed Vice-President Technical Services. A power-point on an update of the project was presented to the attendees. The purpose of the presentation was to:

- Provide further background on Benga
- Provide details of the project
- Detail of the outcome of sample analysis to date
- Plans for future exploration
- Community engagement plan
- Community involvement to date
- Effects of the South Saskatchewan Region Plan
- Water studies
- Transportation of finished product
- Project Schedule
- Financial

The following questions were raised and fielded by Benga:

- In terms of your business plan and financing, right now you're putting it by some equity capital that you're pretty comfortable with. Will you go to the market for more or what is the plan?
- Where is the point where you will make the decision to go to the market at the point of permitting, some detailed design.....?
- From the samples that Benga has received already, what is it, Thermal or Metallurgical?
- There would be some Thermal coal on Grassy, is that true?

- What is the break even here for your cost on production? You've shared that some of the smaller producers are fading away which is good for you guys, but what is your break even.
- In terms of size, how does this mine stack up, is it small, medium, large and what sets you apart from the other small markets that are fading away?
- You say you'll start production around 2018, so when do you anticipate close up.
- Could you give us a sense of how much you're going to spend in the community this year on this project?
- How many people do you expect to employ at 2,000,000 tonnes per year?
- When it comes to farming out a lot of your contracting services, I assume you must go out to tender and bid processes, how far in advance of mine production do you have to get all of that in place for local people who are looking at branching out or expanding their businesses.
- Now that you've opened up the area and started an exploration program, if it doesn't work out in terms of feasibility would you be on the hook to reclaim the previous disturbance?
- How far do you want to go with reclaiming the past and how would that be measured? As far as the EIS and feasibility what have you used elsewhere in an environmental management system to help your operation minimize waste and reduce impacts?
- What do you plan on this mine being, Hydraulic or Electric?

Open House/Public Forum 4 – September 30 and October 1, 2014 – Crowsnest Pass Sport Complex, Coleman, Alberta

Benga conducted the fourth Open House/Public Forum for the Grassy Mountain Project in the community of Coleman in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta during the afternoons of September 30 and October 1, 2014. The Open House continued into the evening of October 1 for those who were unable to attend during the day. This specifically followed the format of an Open House with five "information stations" that provided participants with brief, focused learning and discussion points. Project representatives and consultants were available at each station to provide detailed information, answer questions and record comments.

The information stations included:

- Welcome and Orientation
- Project Update and Status – Environmental Assessment
- Proposed Mine Development - Geographic Information, Mine Plan, Maps, Engineering, Site and Facility Layout
- Corporate Information and Background and Local History of Mining
- Proposed Rail Load-Out Options

Approximately 156 people attended in to the Open House to view the displays that were set out. The purpose of the Open House was to:

- provide notification and awareness that the Project had been publicly disclosed to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER)
- provide a forum for the general public to comment on proposed Rail Load-Out options, and
- Obtain information from the public and stakeholders that will assist in project decision with a specific focus on proposed rail alignments and load-out options.

In addition, Benga representatives met with key community stakeholders who may be directly impacted by one or more of the proposed rail alignments/load-out options on September 29.

A total of 96 exit surveys were completed (62% of attending participants). The first section explored whether the open houses met participants’ learning needs. The results are summarized in the table below.

Participant Learning at the Open House

Table 3.1-8 Participant Learning at the May 29, 2014 Open House	
	Yes (%)
Did you get the information you needed?	62%
Was the event helpful to learn about the Project?	91%
Were the materials provided easy to understand and use?	72%
Were staff helpful in explaining the materials so you could respond?	91%
Were your questions answered fully?	56%
Did you comment on those areas of greatest interest/need/concern to you?	70%
Did staff listen and record your comments?	61%

Identified Community Concerns and Interests

In the second section of the exit survey, respondents reviewed a list of concerns or interests and indicated which were important to them. The percentage of respondents who indicated concern is presented in [Table 3.1-9](#).

Table 3.1-9 Public Stakeholder Identified Areas of Concern - May 29, 2014 Open House	
Potential Areas of Concern	% Indicating Concern
Groundwater quality	74%
Residential property effects	65%
Human health	59%
Groundwater quantity	59%
Surface water quantity	56%
Surface water quality	55%
Wildlife and fisheries	55%
Reclamation	54%
Recreation access to public land	49%
Public safety	47%
Public engagement	43%
Industrial and mine related traffic volumes	43%
Protection of historical resources	39%

Table 3.1-10 represents these comments and/or concerns from the May 29, 2015 Open House in the interviewees' own language. Responses to key issues raised by public stakeholders are detailed in Table G.4.0-1 of Section G: Public Engagement.

Table 3.1-10 Exit Interview Comments Expressed at the May 29, 2014 Open House
Property Owners Adjacent to Grassy
How do I get to my property that I have owned for 21 years? I have 54 head of cattle grazing on my quarter and 2 others that I rent. Is there property that I could swap in another area?
Wildlife
Needs detailed information on breeding and migrating birds in the area. Wildlife crossing north and south through east Coleman. Wildlife blockage by idled or halted trains. Effect on wildlife and habitats.

Table 3.1-10 Exit Interview Comments Expressed at the May 29, 2014 Open House
River Bottom Option

The proposed load out which has the third railway running from Willow Drive to the Crowsnest Mall and Drain's would most seriously impact animals crossing on the existing north to south wildlife hot zone around the existing Servus Credit Union building.

Very concerned with Knight option. Vast impact on Ironstone development. Also vast impact on the residents of Ironstone and Coleman and Blairmore.

My house is in Coleman, very close to one of your load out maps depiction of an overpass at the 81 street Railroad crossing.

As owner of the Lost Lemon Campground in Blairmore I have big concerns about the increasing noise level if they would put in an additional proposed option 2 map which is right across the campground. A few years back was a siding put in and the noise level was terrible until they moved the turn out further back to existing turnout.

Since the proposed rail alignments have spawned, many questions that couldn't be answered at this stage. My only recommendation would be to continue with public engagement as your feasibility study progresses.

Access to Bushtown if linear load out proposal goes forward is a concern that needs follow-up.

I live at Ironstone Lookout (condo assoc.). Option 2 is unacceptable for me and I am sure also for most other owners. It would devalue our properties and also have noise issues. Please advise when a decision on the options are made.

We live in Ironstone Estates and would like to see the load out facility in another locations out of sight of the public.

Load out facility so visible on valley bottom option.

The mine facilities for the mine in the main valley might be a greater impact on the tourism industry.

What is the impact on people living in Coleman going to be?

Golf Course Option

We are concerned that we may lose our golf course if certain options are chosen. Hopefully there will be money set aside to replace the course to at least its present state.

If Golf Course Option is chosen need time line and assurance of least impact.

Concerned with the effect on Golf Course (time frame to restructure and redesign).

Conveyor belt do lose fines while transporting the coal. I feel that rail option #1 would be the best to protect the environment in the valley.

We believe redesign the Golf Course is the best option.

Relocation of part of Golf Course.

If you go through the Golf Course, will you replace the holes used before proceeding with project?

The Golf Course is the most important and the impact you will have on it.

Golf Course recovery timing is first priority. Mine impact on Wildlife population.

What is the impact on the Golf Course actually going to be?

Rail load out 2 and 3 are good but the building for loading the trains would be better if they were back away from highway.

Please do not put load out in bottom of valley. Place load out as far away from town as possible. I like the Golf Course option with the load out away from the highway.

Other Recreational Access

Recreational access for the purpose of hunting and fishing is important too.

Recreation access on Benga land.

Existing and future mountain bike trails on Benga lands. Continue initial discussions with UROC about mountain bike trails.

Quad trails through Benga property.

Table 3.1-10 Exit Interview Comments Expressed at the May 29, 2014 Open House
Public Engagement Advice

Full disclosure of load out plans including conveyor system.
 Actual load out building drawings are needed.
 An overview of the displays would have been helpful.
 Dust control along conveyor to load out and at the load out is a concern that need follow-up.
 Our real concerns are the load outs and rail lines.
 Load out pamphlet would be helpful.
 Improvements to consider for future public engagement events is to post announcements and post project documents on revresources.com.
 It might help to have a little more of a "narrative" to the info. All the pieces were there, but tying them together needed staff support.
 Public forums work well.
 This format is informal and informative. The previous presentation was also informative.
 Would be pleased to attend more O/H as the project progresses.
 Mine site tour would be interested to see the mine with tour guide to explain layout, geology, etc. and significance of formations.
 Orthophotos rather than topo.
 Improvement to the public engagement event would be to hold it a little later would be great if possible. A bit of a challenge with work schedule to get here. I will make best effort to attend future Open Houses.
 You will need more public meetings after we go over the information we received.
 Have a video of modern mine in production showing conveyor system, loading station filling cars with sound.
 Video of modern mine workings re; conveyor belt, load out facility and coal extraction.
 More detail as options chosen.
 Interested in coal processing aspect.
 Very busy, it was hard to get a clear look at the rail options.
 Illustrate Benga's prior experience in operating an open pit mine. Where, when, exten..etc. to help prove to public they are invested for the long haul.
 Support for social/cultural activities.
 Have more detail. It was a good first look, but all the answers just seemed to be "just proposal".
 More visual impact of load out facility- all options.
 Needs more examples of what facilities would potentially look like to exemplify that a "clean" operation is feasible. The facilities east of New Castle in Australia would be good example.
 Video presentation may be beneficial.
 Economic benefit to the Pass.
 Maybe have a set time and have one speaker go through everything with question period afterward.
 Show the location of the existing Grassy Mtn Road on the plans so it is easier to get oriented.
 Need time to contemplate options/ideas.
 First Nation site visits is an area of interest.
 Have an introductory presentation ahead of the discussions.
 More detailed maps giving better reference points so the average person can read and understand them.

Table 3.1-10 Exit Interview Comments Expressed at the May 29, 2014 Open House
<p>Public Engagement - Positive</p> <p>The public engagement event is ok as is. Project updates are perfect. Thanks for keeping the community updated. I found Open House to be very informative, the representatives were very personable and friendly. Looking forward to see how project develops. Keep up the info sessions, very much appreciated. This is a very good start. Will be important for follow-up to keep everyone informed of your progress and milestones. Good food, keep it up at future public sessions. I have no recommendation, everyone was very informative and helpful. You've done a great job so far. Keep it up! I found it very informative.</p>
<p>Noise/Dust</p> <p>Increasing train traffic and noise. Noise re: loading. How much? How many hours/train? Noise Need assurance or proof of noise and dust suppression. The load out options and the rail lines, what draft will be chosen is an additional concern. Potential Rail Load options, dust control and impact to the town needs more follow-up. Noise and dust concerns. Increased Railway noise, traffic, visual impact of load out if south of #3. More information on dust suppression and drying end product. My concern is load out. In event of break down, problems, etc.</p>
<p>Visual Impact</p> <p>Load out too close to public areas. Having the loadout zone close to the highway I think could be a real eye sore to the community. I like the option of the loading zone hidden back into the hills.</p>
<p>Follow-up requests</p> <p>Attend a general meeting of the Hillcrest Fish and Game Assoc. to present the overview and answer questions from members.</p>
<p>Historical</p> <p>Preservation (enhancement) of Greenhill Mine tipple and ancillary buildings.</p>
<p>Feasibility</p> <p>A good introduction to more detail of the proposed project but it seems that money is the main driver of this. It would be better if the company were more open to alternative options for the development of the project that might be better for the community although more costly initially. Anything I suggested was dismissed as too costly. Estimated costs for all alternatives should be available. They seem to be just interested in the economics of the options – not really on the impact on the community. Is this public consultation really going to have any impact on the final decisions or is it just to inform us how it will be?</p>

Table 3.1-10 Exit Interview Comments Expressed at the May 29, 2014 Open House
Economics

Impact for employment opportunities for the area.
 More information required about community/employment impact.
 Once employment of local people is needed, get in touch.
 Excited for economic impact.
 Future jobs.
 Are you using local contractors for exploration and other onsite work?
 Do you have at this time any information on how many employees you would need once mining operations begin? Do you have a local hire policy?
 Development and expansion of residential sites to worker influx.
 It almost seems that draft one of the train loading is the one and the others are just to try and show alternatives. I hope this is not true for the process.
 All three load out options do not work for me. They are in conflict with other community developments projects which are in the planning stages (hotels, resorts, etc) and do not meet the area strategic plans for development. Need to consult with organizations like the Economic Development Committee and Community Futures to align all the projects.

Environment All

Selenium issues, coal dust issues and wildlife management.
 My worries are mainly on environmental impact and the reclamation.
 Mitigation plan for water protection, wildlife and environment.
 Vicinity of mine to protected lands (Buffer around mine area to surrounding lands).
 Leaching of selenium from waste rock.
 Surface water and wildlife/fisheries.
 Groundwater is a concern that needs follow-up.
 Ground and surface water quality, quality and wildlife and fisheries I know will be well monitored by the government.
 Water quality.
 Areas such as water concerns-safety, etc., are covered by government regs.
 Treatment water disposal (ie: into surface water courses?)

Common Themes

Themes for which two or more people commented included: the need for a hand-out on load-out options indicating mitigations for dust, noise pollution and visual impact assessment, the need for information selenium issues, more detailed maps using orthophoto imagery and indicating access roads and trails, more details on the socio-economic impacts, impacts on recreational use of area.

Improvements for Next Open House

There was strong support of the presentation type Public Forum followed by the Q & A type format as previously conducted by Benga. Implementing that type of format with the Open House to be considered.

Open House/Public Forum 5 – April 22, 2015 – Elks Hall, Blairmore, Alberta

Benga conducted the fifth Open House/Public Forum for the Grassy Mountain Project in the community of Coleman in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta on April 22. This was a combination of an Open House and Public Forum that was decided upon due to community feedback.

The Open House was held from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm with four “information stations” that provided participants with brief, focused learning and discussion points. Project representatives and consultants were available at each of the stations to provide detailed information, answer questions and record comments.

The information stations included:

Welcome and Orientation

Project Update Status – Environmental Assessment

Proposed Mine Development - Geographic Information, Mine Plan, Maps, Engineering, Site and Facility Layout

Proposed Rail Load-Out Options

The purpose of the Open House was to:

Provide a forum for the general public to comment on proposed Rail Load-Out options, and

Obtain information from the public and stakeholders that will assist in project decision with a specific focus on proposed rail alignments and load-out options.

Obtain public feedback on any positive or negative impact the project may have on them, their community or other concerns of interest to them.

Establish the majority support of the community between two proposed Load Out options.

From 7:00 pm to approximately 8:30, Benga Managing Director and CFO provided a presentation to the public. The presentation was intended to:

Introduce other companies involved in the Grassy Mountain Project

Provide coal market information

Financial objective required of Grassy Mountain Project

Current project status

Expenditures overall and in the community

Economic Impact to the community

Geology

Mine Site Infrastructure/Operations

Employment

Rail Load Out and Conveyor Design for two options

Environmental Studies
Potential Environmental Issues
Potential Safety Issues
Project Schedule

A total of 18 people requested a copy of the presentation, it was posted on the Benga website and a link forwarded to those stakeholders that requested it.

Following the presentation, the Managing Director and the CFO fielded questions and comments from the public and the questions were as follows:

Why is there not more information on the Benga Website.

I'm curious about your submission to the Federal Government for the environmental on that report there's certain things to provide, it seems to me that Valley Ridge which is a development of about 60 acreages and we're probably the closest community to the mine, I'm curious about the blasting that's going to be taking place near our community. I'd appreciate some update on that.

These proposals for Loadout aren't they in direct conflict with a recent motion by council?

What consideration has been made for sound barriers at loadout?

One time you said there were four hundred employees, the next time you said a small group. Which one is it?

What are the impacts a private residences near Grassy Mountain?

Why weren't the property owners near Grassy Mountain notified of Project Description or the CEAA submission?

David Savage, present on behalf of a bunch of the landowners near Grassy Mountain. It's disconcerting to hear, "don't worry about it Blairmore, it's OK, Bluff Mountain will protect you. The very first people you talk to is right beside you. What I have heard is that we have talked to the Stakeholders and Aboriginals. What I look forward to is a conversation with the people immediately in your neighborhood.

How far is the Loadout at the Bengalla Mine in Australia from the town?

We have two choices for load out options. Can the people vote on the option, have a referendum?

Drug issues in the community?

First of all, we are a mining town, I think, most of us earn our living directly or indirectly from mining coal. That's not an excuse to just take us for granted because we are a mining town. In fact, because we are a mining town you have your job in front of you higher than easier, because you are looking at people who work with coal and understand coal and coal has certain qualities that technology has not changed for the past hundred years. Now one thing that strikes me is that we didn't have any paper given to us that we can take home and ponder and you are not on the website that a gentleman here has mentioned. Normally in a big operation like this with all the people you employ, you flew in whole

bunch of people, we would have expect you would have spend some money on photocopy and had some of this stuff for us to take home and think about and maybe reflect on it and get back to you.

I have two questions on shipping. You're saying this train is going to be in place in the load out facility west bound for seven, seven and a half hours before it's done? And you're going to pack the coal as it comes out of the load out facility, you're packing and spraying? I can tell you the mine you have for a demonstration it looks like it's a fairly nice pilot, with no coal, no wind, if you've got a train sitting out parked here and something breaks down in your load out facility, now your 7 hours starts going on 12 and the wind starts howling down that corridor, you're going to have dust everywhere. I worked for XXX for years and it was marginal at best. By the time the rail car left and got to Robins Bank we were missing four or five tons per car. Now I'm not sure if you've thought of what's going on there but that coal is going somewhere all up and down the highway. The other question was you're saying you're going to ship this coal to Robins Bank? Teck's going to let you put your coal on their ground. They're going to say ok you're my competitor, you can put your coal on my property and we're not going to say anything about it. I don't see Tech being that accommodating.

I've got land up on the Mountain, so then when I saw this letter April 7 that was sent to Ranchland, that was the first time that I was informed the road would be closed and I'm wondering when it would be closed and sort of by reading the letter I got the impression that you weren't committed or involved in finding us other access and even another access for Oscar's family that would require my road from mining road and it's my understanding that the road up to the highway from the MD of Ranchland is public road owned by the Crowsnest Pass or the province, so I don't understand how the roads can be closed and how we can lose access to our properties without even being informed like the way we were informed was such a third party way and it impacts the value of our property and our lifestyle in great...in just a huge way, so we have concerns and just the lack of information, we are all very concerned and when do you think the road will be closed?

You mentioned the market in China. I also read that China's demand for coal fell in 2015, even steal production is predicted to a peak and is falling off, the electricity production is going to more towards wind and solar, can you elaborate further that you will have a market for 25 years or more?

As a resident of Crowsnest Pass this community, starting in 1980, I've seen this place die. Starting with Coleman Collieries, the saw mill, the gas plant, everything is shut down. This is a glimmer of hope to me for this community, a chance to get a tax base. I see a very large majority in the community support this project and I think you guys with your load out can do a very responsible job. With no coal on the ground and with the small amount of fines in this Greenhill coal, not like the mine I worked at in Elk Valley, it's just loaded with fines and that creates the dust problem. I think you guys can do a responsible job and I welcome you to this community.

I am a property owner up beside Grassy. Discussion on the access road. Will you guarantee that you will provide adequate notice to land owners about the road closure in adequate time as in 90 days, because the communication level that we have received from Benga to this point have been totally inadequate in servicing the owners.

Can you tell me what your plans are for your balance of your properties is, like the Adanac?

Did you live in a coal mining town Steve?

I have a question. Over the past year, you presented us with the load out possibilities council was rejecting that and today I was expecting something, another alternative but it seems to be the same three possibilities. The reason being that there's no other way or is there another way which is more expensive which might be for you people too expensive. Can you tell me are there alternatives?

I was just wondering, are you required by law to secure a bond, and does it fall on the MD of Ranchland? It's like an insurance, so if Benga's situation didn't happen, is there money set aside to the government so we can access that money to reclaim the land, say with the Municipality, put a load out down here and all of a sudden things fail, does the municipality have a security bond to so if you don't own up to what you do and you leave town we got money to can clean it up, fix it up do whatever we have to do. So for example of Benga had to pull out, how would the municipality access that money, who would you have to go through, Federal or Provincial?

I was at one of your talks I think it was August 2013 and at that time you mentioned that I think you said you were involved in seven projects. It sounds like they were successful mines. I guess the reality of dealing with a business environment I guess one of my concerns would be that it sounds like you are good engineers in that you can get a startup operation or it sounds like you've sold it on a number of times or at least this team has and yet we are talking about a twenty five year commitment that this community would be making to this and we really don't know at this point in time whether the management team in place at the time is going to be the same group, that's here five years from now or twenty five years, so if we're building a relationship with this management team in this economic environment, you guys have been from Australia, I get that, so this isn't your home, you guys don't have a long term commitment here at least from a family perspective, I guess my concern is who would we be dealing with five years from now? And when we start talking about this sort of relationship you're building with the community you're trying to be one of the lowest cost producers in the world. To me this is a tradeoff for some of the things I would rather see go into an operation like this, they would ensure that you are the best coal producer in the world and that would come from not only a safety point of view, but from an environmental point of view and from a air conditioned [point of view and noise conditioned point of view and I believe all of those aren't necessarily compatible maybe they are an engineer, but often they're not, so those are my concerns. Number one is long term commitment to the community and are you guys in this for the long haul and I don't need you to sign a paper here tonight and I'm here to hear what your intentions are? And then number two, how do you propose to trade of I guess those inputs that go into a coal facility to make it the best facility for this community.

CNP Golf Club Golfer – As a golfer, your interest has been grabbed pretty quickly by what could happen. It's a big change for our Golf course, it's a big change for our community. However, what's going on is the way that change is being managed and our situation at the Golf Course which I am not the director of by the way, I think that management process has been very positive. Benga folks came to us a year ago the options have been redeveloped and we've been working with them ever since. At this point we've formed a structure to work with them about the impact of the course, maintaining course operation maintain facilities and getting on with a bigger better future. At this point in time that's not

all in place because we don't know what option is going forward, but what I will say is working with Benga to date has been very positive, very constructive and we as a board are committed to continuing to work with them to the best interest of our membership, so thank you for being open and forthright with us and I look forward to working with you in the future.

We are landowners and have other interests in the community. And looking at your load out option here you're going along the train track along the river. The trails coalition gave our community grant money to build that trail will that trail system affect that trail system that many people walk on at night, including me my dogs, will that be affected?

The facility is going alongside the walking trail then?

Also as a member of the Quad Squad our club has spent more than \$1.5 million dollars in maintaining our trails and bridges across our rivers and streams to protect our rivers and streams and trout. Trials coalition just gave us a huge grant to restore the trails that were damaged in the floods and we are in the process now in getting and I hear the Adanac mine any trails in that area? Benga has been absolutely excellent with the trails up by us, Keith has been keeping us in touch with the trails up by Grassy Mountain, we bring many tourists in on the weekend quading here, so I just wanted to keep that open.

I just had question here, I don't belong to the Ranchland and I don't own land anywhere you guys are working, but I'm just curious, people in the Ranchland seem very concerned this mine and their properties and I notice you guys saying have been saying that you been having meetings with Ranchland. Have you guys not considered doing one on one meetings with each of the people that have a piece of land next to your property, a lot of people won't want to say things at a meeting like this but can be forthright on their own, have you guys considered doing that? I'm just curious because it sounds like (inaudible)

There's one other thing that I wanted to say and that is I have been in the community twenty years and I relatively new to here and there's a lot of elderly people here who do not agree with this, to them I have to say, you've all retired here mining you made your money working in the coal mines I think it's only fair to give the younger generation a chance to do that through all of these new mines and developments.

I've been here since 1994, I've owned a business in this community since that time and I see the population of this community dropping, slowly. This is not the only time a group has come to town, but the first time a serious group has come to town with some backing, and able to give some life back to our community again. I hear stories about the Pass, of what this community used to be and like the last gentleman, I have a young family, the school is declining in numbers, teachers down in numbers as well. Public facilities decrease, public facilities being gauged to a point where they may not have a life much longer. I see this as a positive to this community, I've talked to a lot of people daily and they see this as a positive as well. There is some negative, but change of anything in life is difficult. Right from when we grew up, to give our kids a change of clothes, to get our parents to change their vehicle. This is a big drastic change for our community, so you are going to hear some negative, but you have to remember that I believe there is a lot of positive to this community with this idea and your

consultation with the public is very appreciative. I thank you for providing me have the opportunity to say something directly to you, thank you.

Total number of people who signed in over the course of the day was 229. There was well over 180 attendees at the evening presentation.

Exit Interview

A total of 91 exit surveys were completed (39% of attending participants). Results of the form is as follows:

Common Themes

- Handouts (General (ie: presentation, TOR, etc.))
- Updates on websites
- Handouts on the information at the specific stations
- Status of affected land owners (this came from outside of the affected property owners adjacent to Grassy Mountain)
- Display list of things Benga is able to contribute to in the community
- Provide list of spin off benefits
- More Open Houses
- More people at the stations to explain them

The first section explored whether the open houses met participants' learning needs. The results are summarized in [Table 3.1-11](#) below (based on responses to the question).

Table 3.1-11 Participant Learning at the April 22, 2015 Open House	
	Yes (%)
Did you get the information you needed?	62%
Was the event helpful to learn about the Project?	83%
Were the materials provided easy to understand and use?	61%
Were staff helpful in explaining the materials so you could respond?	80%
Were your questions answered fully?	59%
Did you comment on those areas of greatest interest/need/concern to you?	67%
Did staff listen and record your comments?	60%

Identified Community Concerns and Interests

In the second section of the exit survey, respondents reviewed a list of concerns or interests and indicated which were important to them. The percentage of respondents who indicated concern is presented in [Table 3.1-12](#) below (based on 91 completed feedback forms).

Potential Areas of Concern	% Indicating Concern
Changes/Impact to Community Character	53%
Community Health/Well Being	64%
Public Safety and Emergency Response	45%
Industrial and Mine Related Traffic Volumes	42%
Reclamation of Mined Lands to Public Use	49%
Protection of Historical Resources	28%
Recreation Access on Public Lands	49%
Wildlife/Mammals	53%
Fish	51%
Surface Water	58%
Groundwater	58%
Economic Development	57%
Employment	48%

The results of the question regarding the choice of the two proposed Load Out options was as follows:

Golf Course	45
River Bottom	21
In favour of project, but indifferent or undecided	15
Not opposed to project, opposed to either location	7
Opposed to project entirely	3

Exit Interview Comments

[Table 3.1-14](#) represents these comments and/or concerns from the April 22, 2015 Open House in the interviewees' own language. Responses to key issues raised by public stakeholders are detailed in [Table G.4.0-1 of Section G: Public Engagement](#).

Table 3.1-14 Exit Interview Comments from the April 22, 2015 Open House
<p>Visual Impact</p> <p>Would be taking away the beauty of our community.</p> <p>Landscape/mountain views: avoid industrializing (hide the loading facility).</p> <p>Compromising the natural beauty and tranquility of the Crowsnest Pass golf course, and it's attraction to tourists and residence.</p> <p>Would prefer to keep all impacts close to mine site.</p> <p>No one wants to look at the load out facility, and the associated noise.</p> <p>We moved to the Crowsnest Pass in 2008 because of its natural beauty and untouched mountains. This area will not be the same with mining so close to town. Hiking, trail running, mountain biking, fishing will all be affected. I feel very sad.</p> <p>Currently, I can see the golf course from my balcony. If I had known the loadout would be visible from my house, I would not have moved here.</p> <p>The phrase not in my backyard-it all depends on where one lives!</p>
<p>Human Environment</p> <p>Dirt and coal polluting the valley.</p> <p>Also, with a north wind blowing over and open pit mine, there is bound to be some coal dust blowing toward town.</p> <p>Also, coal dust when the wind blows.</p> <p>Noise and dust for residents: industrializing the community conflicts hugely with appeal.</p> <p>Dust suppression.</p> <p>Noise suppression.</p> <p>Noise-can hear exploration work east of Livingstone Range.</p> <p>Noise.</p> <p>Emissions</p> <p>Maybe the conveyor system will not leak coal when new, but will it be maintained during the lifetime of the mine?</p> <p>This is a large project presented to a small community-hard to believe a load out facility would be palatable to our community so close to a school or so close to a hospital.</p> <p>Retaining/slack ponds-sustainability; environmental health and safety measures.</p> <p>Noise levels and/or ground shutter from blasting in Valley Ridge Estates?</p> <p>Noise and dusting issues with loadout facility.</p> <p>Fugitive emissions and greenhouse gas emissions and impact on community; potential for eversion in the valley.</p> <p>24/7 operation-concern for day and more specifically night noise.</p> <p>Impact of solid waste disposal on community and shared waste management site.</p> <p>I am concerned about noise.</p>
<p>Water</p> <p>Keep away from wetlands preferably.</p> <p>Interested in effects of groundwater from blasting. Has there been studies done yet?</p> <p>Also has there been studies on Gold Creek and other groundwater areas?</p> <p>Impact on Gold Creek and aquifer water well sources.</p>

Table 3.1-14 Exit Interview Comments from the April 22, 2015 Open House
Economics - Negative
<p>We try to develop tourism in the area and I think everybody worries that the mining activities, especially the loading of coal in train, will impact the landscape. I think it's important to be mindful of the impact regarding visual, sound and dust. I think that the load out facility by the river will hamper tourist visits and vacation real estate.</p> <p>Impact of tourism if loadout is visible.</p> <p>Demand for coal in China dropped last year, if the price drops significantly five years after mine opens will mine be abandoned without being cleaned up? This would cause real estate market collapse and environmental issues.</p> <p>Very concerned about the negative impact on our tourism industry and on the environmental issues such as dust and noise.</p> <p>Will there be compensation for business and personal losses?</p>
Economics - Positive
<p>CNP and area including pincher Creek need job development.</p> <p>We cannot rely on tourism.</p> <p>Golf course can be rebuilt (happy to hear positive comments) - cannot move my home!</p> <p>We really need some progress in this valley, good luck.</p> <p>Is Benga going to be operating the mine?</p> <p>This is a great thing for the Pass.</p> <p>Economic growth for the area.....win, win...</p> <p>We need this to boost our community in every way. Great.</p> <p>Employment opportunities.</p> <p>I am interested in employment.</p> <p>Additional recreational facilities and improved golf course sound great!</p> <p>Need jobs and economic stimulus for future of area.</p> <p>Great project and our community could greatly benefit.</p> <p>As a home builder, interest in updates and info on potential building and housing construction and management.</p> <p>I have no concerns. This can only help the community.</p> <p>Please build it.</p> <p>Project would absolutely rejuvenate the Crowsnest Pass.</p>
Human Environment - Positive
<p>Not concerned about reclamation as it will be a must.</p>
Presentation Advice
<p>Demonstrate a logical plan forward how you are going to get there!</p> <p>What are key decision triggers?</p> <p>Once the environmental assessment is completed please have another open house.</p> <p>Make a list of things that your company is willing to do for the community.</p> <p>Provide a list of all the spin off business that would be required to support this project so that people can see the opportunities that the community will have in the future that it doesn't presently have.</p>

Table 3.1-14 Exit Interview Comments from the April 22, 2015 Open House
<p>Keep up the good work.....</p> <p>There needs to be continuous open houses as the project progresses. I would like to know more about the environmental impact and water usage.</p> <p>Show 3-D mock up of built/mine to scale.</p> <p>Thank you for this forum and I do appreciate the fact that you are here and taking the interests of our community in your planning.</p>
<p>Public Engagement Positive</p>
<p>Not giving us the other choices to consider makes us wonder about the transparency of the project and fairness to the residents to decide on load out sites. You are putting a lot of stress on the residents with these choices only!</p> <p>I think the decisions about the load out facility have already been made, so it seems dishonest to suggest there are still options at this late stage of the process.</p> <p>I don't think anything we say will have any effect on the decisions.</p> <p>Listen to the community, having been told loudly that the loadout options presented were not at all well received why would you present the same ones again?</p> <p>Don't stop discussion of options with the firm statement that decisions will be based on economics. I mean, why have the open house?</p> <p>Noise and dust from loadout was not adequately addressed-I can handle a lot of different impacts, but coal dust all over the town would significantly detract from our quality of life.</p>
<p>Comments other</p>
<p>Do not take away existing motorized vehicle ATV trails.</p> <p>Access to community path at 88th st. if Coleman loadout chosen.</p> <p>Coal is being tracked from the Line Creek mine to the Coal Mountain plant for processing 50 km. The Coal Mountain mine life is apparently only two more years. Would it be feasible to truck you're coal to this developed site for processing and shipping?</p> <p>We plan on selling our property next year. Mountain views five bedrooms, three full baths. Furnished or unfurnished.</p> <p>Interested primarily in the utilization of fiber removed from mining development sites.</p> <p>Interest in discussing potential synergies between your organization and my service. Re: development of site and resources.</p> <p>Thanks for your presentation-please meet with the neighboring landowners who spoke up at the meeting. I feel badly for them.</p> <p>With one hall meeting, it allows only for a small cross-section of the community. Some people on shift or could not attend.</p> <p>Change method of transporting coal to loadout point, by switching to hydrostatic piping cuts down on a lot of coal dust. Example; Suncor went to same system for moving bitumen from mine to plant easier on wildlife too.</p> <p>Perhaps instead of conveyor belts and trucks-transport by hydrostatic pipe to the loadout point at track location cut down on a lot of dust might require a bit of water but less environment damage.</p>
<p>Other Landowners</p>
<p>Thanks for your presentation-please meet with the neighboring landowners who spoke up at the meeting. I feel badly for them.</p>

Comments from the Exit Interview

Load Out Options

Location of Load Out

River Bottom:

- easier for the train-less noise in the community
- less visible to tourists
- siding parallel to existing rail line will be less intrusive visually and for noise. Re-use of contaminated land for new industry logical
- in favor of overpass idea-as long as emergency traffic still has access at all times to all parts of the community
- the infrastructure is already there and it's an ugly site now. You can only improve it. No one else will ever do the reclamation from the post plant
- neither option is very good. Find a route that will not create an eyesore
- location at golf course would create all kinds of problems-especially at load out site and closer proximity to residential-dust, wind, noise
- both are good
- prefer golf course be left as it is. But I do have a concern about preservation of the wetlands/aquifer between Coleman and Blairmore. Another load out with spurline through maybe where the Riverrun project failed in Blairmore
- golf course is a ridiculous cost and should be avoided
- ties directly in with existing rail infrastructure means this all pretty much in the same location

Golf Course

- golf course-impact of river bottom is to impactful on community
- less visible from community and Highway. Less affected by 100 MPH winds. The Coleman site is very windy and there would be cold blowing around. Golf course may be financially more costly but intangible costs would be less
- I don't want to lose the walking trails
- the river bottom will result in more coal dust and pollution blow into Blairmore by prevailing powerful west and Chinook winds
- river bottom area too much water. The extra money you would spend to make the area stable could be used better on golf course site
- I live in Bushtown and do not want it in my backyard
- must keep the golf course in continuous 18 hole operation!
- the moose pasture may not withstand long-term
- makes sense.....

- keep away from residential and high school. Concerned about pollution and air quality, strong westerly winds in the area, can result in strong smell and pollution
- I've heard golf course wants to make changes and this will be suitable
- as long as old holes are replaced, I like this option
- really either place would work
- golf course-keep out of town with rail and load out
- golf course option with a berm and trees will be aesthetically pleasing. Will cause less negativity with both local and tourism traffic
- is not in the middle of town
- because of the opportunity for a new clubhouse!
- further from residential areas such as Bushtown and upper Coleman-there will be less impact on community

Neither

- Neither! Both are too close to the community, school and hospital. These options would be taking away from the beauty of our community
- both would negatively affect my community and my enjoyment of it-aesthetics, safety, noise. I live east of both sites and on the wrong side of the tracks. Our prevailing westerly's can be powerful and I can't believe some dust won't reach my backyard. One more train Per day will increase noise whistles, trains on tracks and chances of derailments or lack of access for emergency vehicles
- none of the above. The load should be at Lille with a rail line from Police Flats to Lille
- neither are good but the golf course removes the impact from the river bottom/dust/long conveyor belt thing. Also landowners were not contacted for river bottom
- mine load out facility should be located north of Blairmore out of sight
- I don't like either option. They are too close to town and the highway and walking paths and river

No Decision/Undecided

- the one with the least environmental and social impact
- you need to explore both until you have exhaust the key indications of pro/con to make an informed decision
- Haven't decided yet
- I don't have enough information on community impact and mitigations for options to support either proposed locations for train Loadout
- Either

- pick either I like both

Not in Favor of Project

- neither, I don't want to live in an industrial community
- neither
- We moved to the Crowsnest Pass in 2008 because of its natural beauty and untouched mountains. This area will not be the same with mining so close to town. Hiking, trail running, mountain biking, fishing will all be affected. I feel very sad

Other Comments

- The golf course-really? Find a different option for loading!
- I don't think the community will accept either
- Visual of load out on river bottom would not be appealing for through traffic or locals.
My main concern with the river bottom location is the lack of access to the walking/bike path and the additional train noise. Many people use that path on a daily basis
- Strongly against the river bottom option. Bring us back real alternative load out options. East and outside of the golf course and not at all within Coleman

Requests for Follow-up

- 44 new requests to be added to the email list (some were already on the list).
- 9 others requested to be added to mail list (some were already on the list).
- 2 requested to be phoned with updates and newsletters (one later provided email for email list)
- 24 have requested some follow-up contact – all follow-up conducted (many were service providers canvassing for business). Others to express their concern for the Valley Bottom Option.

Other Associated Communication

On May 8, 2015 an email went out to the Benga email list updating Stakeholders with the outcome of the Open House. The purpose of the letter was to:

- Express appreciation for those that attended
- Provide numbers that attended
- Some common themes (ie: more information on website)
- Outcome of community's poll on the two Rail Load Out options

A copy of the letter was also published in the local print media and there was a letter to the editor response.

Improvements for Next Open House/Open Public Forum

The combination of the two formats was well received. This community appears to really enjoy the opportunity to pose questions to the Benga executives whereas the "information stations" provide

opportunity for public to speak directly with the “designers” and appears to make for more informative feedback.

People expressed an interest in walking away with literature on what was presented, so they could take it home and review it further. Each display should have brochures on what it is presenting.

There was only one microphone for the public to ask questions. Because of the large number of people, this made it difficult for some to make their way to the microphone. A second mic would be more efficient.

Open House/Public Forum 6 – October 29, 2015 – Elks Hall, Bellevue, Alberta

Benga conducted the third open house for the Project in the community of Bellevue, at the Elks Hall on October 29, 2015. This was a combination of an open house and public forum. Total number of attendees was 146.

The open house was held from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm with ten “information stations” that provided participants with brief, focused learning and discussion points. Project representatives and consultants were available at each of the stations to provide detailed information, answer questions and record comments.

The information stations topics included:

- Welcome and Orientation;
- Environmental Assessment results;
- Water Management Strategy;
- Stewardship Program ;
- Proposed Mine Plan Layout; and
- Socio-Economics.

The purpose of the open house was to:

- Announce that the environmental impact assessment and application would be submitted mid-November; and,
- Obtain public feedback on any positive or negative impact the Project may have on them, their community or other concerns of interest to them.

A total of 64 exit surveys were completed (44% of attending participants). Results of the exit surveys are summarized in [Table G.3.4-6](#) (based on responses to the question).

Table 3.1-15 Participant Learning at the Open House	
	Yes (%)
Did you get the information you needed?	64%
Was the event helpful to learn about the Project?	83%
Were the materials provided easy to understand and use?	60%
Were staff helpful in explaining the materials so you could respond?	79%

Table 3.1-15 Participant Learning at the Open House	
	Yes (%)
Were your questions answered fully?	58%
Did you comment on those areas of greatest interest/need/concern to you?	74%
Did staff listen and record your comments?	72%

Identified Community Concerns and Interests

The common themes raised at the open house and public forum included questions regarding air quality (dust) and noise around the load out, groundwater connectivity to the Project (from local well uses), and impacts to the people of Crowsnest Pass quality of life. The percentage of respondents who indicated concern is presented in [Table 3.1-16](#) (based on 57 completed feedback forms).

Table 3.1-16 Attendee Potential Areas of Concern Expressed at the October 29, 2015 Open House	
Potential Areas of Concern	% Indicating Concern
Changes/Impact to Community Character	68%
Community Health/Well Being	61%
Public Safety and Emergency Response	37%
Industrial and Mine Related Traffic Volumes	56%
Reclamation of Mined Lands to Public Use	60%
Protection of Historical Resources	31%
Recreation Access on Public Lands	51%
Wildlife/Mammals	51%
Fish	56%
Surface Water	67%
Groundwater	75%
Economic Development	67%
Employment	58%

Exit Interview Comments and Response

Attendees were provided an exit interview form on which they were requested to provide their comments or concerns for Benga’s review. [Table 3.1-17](#) represents these comments and/or concerns from the October 29, 2015 Open House in the interviewees’ own language. Responses to key issues raised by public stakeholders are detailed in [Table G.4.0-1 of Section G: Public Engagement](#).

Table 3.1-17 Exit Interview Comments and Response from the October 29, 2015 Open House
Visual Impact
<p>I have never seen a clean load out area. Instead I have seen coal dust covering mountains across the valley. Loadout too close to highway.</p>
Human Environment
<p>Impact on community character-change for the worse. Impacts to tourism, environment, water. No worries-trucks and trains, traffic. Visual degradation, audio degradation. The impact on community quality-of-life, more noise, dust and congestion. Noise from blasting near our home. Living very close to the tracks and a crossing I am concerned about the increased rail traffic noise and decreased potential access of emergency vehicles. I own 160 acres next to Lille-main concerns, noise, dust, general traffic, but most of all will I have good access to the property. How bad will downwind be for dust? Long term access to our property. What does highway noise have relative to train? I support the project but I have concerns about quality-of-life ongoing air quality monitoring, noise monitoring. Noise - due to our residence location and proximity to the mine. Dust and noise pollution in and around Blairmore, Frank and Coleman. Current monitoring/regulation is insufficient to properly deal with present activity. What will happen as population here increases?</p>
Environment - General
<p>Environmental impacts. Everything, dust, trains, damage to our air, to our beautiful scenery, or noise and our tourist industry especially our mountain biking hiking outdoors. Foreign ownership, future ownership, noise pollution, filthy streets, air pollution, water pollution, selenium contamination, environmental accidents. Dirty mine vehicles on our streets. Load station near golf course, hospital, town irreversible loss of wildlife habitat. Do not want to see mountains flattened to access coal to be shipped a great distance to be burned to add carbon dioxide to our atmosphere. This is a small planet. Fear that entire area will be an environmental nightmare.</p>

Table 3.1-17 Exit Interview Comments and Response from the October 29, 2015 Open House
Air

Effect on air quality.
 Real-time air monitoring at loadout.
 I would like more information on the historical and recent air-quality in the Pass.
 Passive and continuous air-quality monitors.
 It would be helpful to have a collection of data which shows the level of particulates, ask Green in the several years.
 I am concerned that affects to control coal dust will be insufficient to survive our winds.
 No air pollution. No sound pollution.
 Air quality.
 Need insurance is that air quality will continue to be pristine.

Water

Long-term and short-term safe water.
 I do have concerns about toxic waste water-eventual disposal and effect on fish.
 What is route and status of water licensing for golf course and mine?
 Water supply/process water disposal and other.

Economics - Negative

Your negative impact of future eco/adventure tourism
 House values will go down.
 Coal has a limited future.
 Location, economic cost-benefit study is limp.
 Coal mining and tourism do not jive.
 The load out on the highway will not attract visitors.
 People don't vacation in coal mining towns.
 Cherry picking data not on cost of community.
 Land and real estate values adjacent to the project.
 Too close to town, it will impact CNP negatively with regard to a recreation destination.
 The impact, negative impact, this project will have to this community, the tourism industry in it and the people far outweighs Riversdale's right to make money.
 The tax benefit to the community does not compensate for the visual, audio and other negative impact.
 It may not even cover infrastructure upgrades and my taxes could go up
 Worried about potential new residents and tourists avoiding the area because they perceive it as a mining town, and current residents moving away for same reason.

Economics - Positive

Employment.
 When the mine is into production and sold off eventually, that the mine operator is as open and community friendly as Riversdale Resources has been.
 I feel that this community is dying economically and needs tax dollars/donations to help with the week infrastructure and lack of quality community recreational facilities.
 I support development of the mine for the economic benefit to our community.
 Good luck, let's get the mine going. The sooner the better.

Table 3.1-17 Exit Interview Comments and Response from the October 29, 2015 Open House

All coal production especially surface mining should hold globally.

I definitely see the economic benefit and look forward to Riversdale continuing their efforts and focus to ensure this mine benefits our community into a healthy and prosperous future.

I think it is great for a community such as ours which badly need some economic boosters and reflux of new families.

Distribution agreement with ranchlands for equitable division of industrial tax base.

I'm sure the mine will have some impact on the environment, but it does not outweigh the benefits which will come to the community.

Hope the project goes.

Taxes going to Ranchlands were communities being dramatically affected.

Golf Course

When will golf course construction commence?

I hope our golf course will be even better after the mine gets going and we don't lose time or golf holes for any length of time.

Concrete agreement on replacement of golf course.

I have seen the mess River Run has made and left. Would hate to see it happening. Love to golf and hope we still have an 18 hole course.

Presentation Advice

Empirical evidence is more convincing than modeling.

A strong sense of you not taking the initiative to do what is best for the community came through by repeated references to us, the laypeople, should know what we need to ask and request.

Can you present operational examples/data that shows relative impact of noise/dust/views.

If you put up 3 to 10 slides why not provide handout sheets as too big a hall it is impossible to read it.

Immediately post info from storyboards on your website.

Is there data to show loadout will be quiet beyond a model?

Feedback to the community what is your communication channel?

Also need a visual to ensure the loadout does not discourage tourism.

I am concerned about the real life applications of the mine. Numbers and info is great but the majority of the public needs to see how numbers turn to reality. Example: increase economic development: significantly controlled dust/pollution

I would like to see more details on actual/real benefit to the community.

More info on highway impact-length of construction.-Alternate routes-consult with CNP counsel.

Public Engagement - Positive

Keep at it, great posters and good discussion, presentations are getting better and better.

Public Engagement - Negative

I don't think that this company really cares about the community. They will not be around when the mine is operating.

How do you quantify ongoing environmental monitoring? Your answer was "what the community thinks we should do" gives a sense of Riversdale still planning on doing the least amount required to get by.

Comments - Other

How will you get involved in community enhancement and to what levels?

Fear that Riversdale will just flip the mine.

Just feel that if Riversdale could commit to donation money towards the water/sewer infrastructure people would greatly appreciate and see the benefits of a mine.

Table 3.1-17 Exit Interview Comments and Response from the October 29, 2015 Open House

I still believe the loadout should be south of Highway 3 on the old pole plant site.

The rotary dump could be salvaged and move to the Bellevue mine site.

Riversdale will eventually sell this development, what guarantee do we have that the operation will continue in the same safe environmentally way that the Riversdale mine has outlined today?

Will all equipment measures be maintained to high standards over the 25 years of the project?

I am particularly concerned about the potential for significantly increased motorized recreation activity in the backcountry. Riversdale contribution to sports and performance complex.

Why don't Riversdale help build a recreation center, fun ski lift or build some trails?

Some significant issues with loadout.

This area has been there done that.

Do it right!

We have owned property in Sparwood for 23 years. I can eat the snow and rarely is there coal dust. The people in Sparwood are the healthiest in the Kootenay valley as per a provincial study.

The support from the community is important.

Improvements for Next Open House/Open Public Forum

Many attendees expressed support for the Open House format and the material displayed. A number of attendees indicated an interest in being able to view handouts and supplemental information on the Company's website for further analysis. Some individuals specifically requested that this information be available in advance of the Open House so that they can prepare questions in advance. Others indicated that they would like to view enhanced renderings of the Load Out facility and/or a video of a similar structure in operation.

Many individuals indicated that the audio visual equipment at the facility did not allow for clear communication, noting the need for a larger screen and louder audio. Others noted that the size of text and graphics was too small to view at a distance.

Formal Letters

Formal Letters that have gone to specific stakeholder groups or individuals are reflected in the category that apply to those groups and individuals. There has only been one Formal Letter, dated May 8, 2015. The letter was from Benga's Managing Director notifying Stakeholders of the outcome of the April 22, 2015 Open House during which attendees expressed a preference for the Golf Course Load Out option, and notifying all that Benga would focus on this preferred location going forward. A copy of the email was also posted in the local print media, the Crowsnest Pass Herald. A Copy of the Formal Letter is available in the Appendices.

Newsletters

Newsletter 1 – February 2014

The first Newsletter came out in February 2014. This was distributed as first contact with many of the groups, clubs and organizations throughout the area. The communication management program, StakeTracker was not

yet online and the contact list was being developed. The list included both community and First Nation consultation.

The Newsletter provided:

- An overview of Benga and the Grassy Mountain Project
- An overview of the current exploration program
- An overview of the Environmental Baseline Studies
- An overview of accessibility and safety concerns to the public
- An overview of the community engagement to date
- An overview of the First Nation Engagement
- Considerations for the South Saskatchewan River Project
- Contact information

Newsletter 2 – December 2014

The second Newsletter came out in December of 2014. It was distributed out to eighty-six people through email, 4 people through mail and one hand delivered. The email was part of a list that was now building, but also included as part of the notifications that were being sent out as required for Exploration Program applications. It continued to also be handed out during any presentations or meetings with the various groups, clubs and organizations throughout the area.

The Newsletter provided:

- An overview of Benga and the Grassy Mountain Project
- An overview of the community engagement
- An overview of the latest Open House
- An overview of the current exploration program
- An overview of the environmental studies
- An article on the necessity of coal
- An overview of the First Nation Consultation
- Considerations for Safety and Access to the near vicinity
- Future Plans
- A message from the Managing Director
- Contact information

Newsletter 3 – February 2015

The third Newsletter came out in February 2015. It was distributed out to eighty-six people through email, four people through mail and one hand delivered. It was also distributed at other events and presentations, meetings with the various groups, clubs and organizations throughout the area.

The Newsletter provided:

- A Grassy Mountain Project update
- Further exploration considerations near Grassy Mountain
- An update to the Load Out options
- Consideration for next Open House
- An article on radio communications used on Grassy Mountain
- Update on Australia Day celebration (see other community events)
- An overview of another project in the area considered by Benga
- An overview of Stakeholder Engagement
- An article on Benga donation of property to the Municipality
- A message from the Community Liaison
- A notice on Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource's Backcountry Rehabilitation Program
- An overview of the project
- Contact information

Newsletter 4 – February 2016

The fourth Newsletter was published in February 2016. It was distributed to Project Stakeholders primarily through email, although a number of recipients received their newsletter via mail. It was also distributed at other events and presentations, meetings with the various groups, clubs and organizations throughout the area and was made available at the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass Office.

The Newsletter provided:

- A Grassy Mountain Coal Project overview, update, and timeline
- Notice of upcoming community meetings
- An article about waterway protection and rehabilitation
- An overview of socio-economic opportunities presented by the Grassy Mountain Project.
- A staff profile
- A review of Benga's Australia Day celebration for the community

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Contact information

Newsletter 5 – May 2016

The fifth Newsletter was published in May 2016. It was distributed to Project Stakeholders primarily through email, although a number of recipients received their newsletter via mail. It was also distributed at other events and presentations, meetings with the various groups, clubs and organizations throughout the area.

The Newsletter provided:

- A Grassy Mountain Coal Project overview and update
- A review of the most recent coal exploration drilling program on Grassy Mountain
- An overview on the role of coal in steel production, green energy, transportation, and critical infrastructure
- An article about the Alberta Conservation Association’s Grizzly Bear Inventory Project
- Frequently Asked Questions
- A staff profile
- Notice of upcoming events
- Contact information

Going forward, Benga will Project-related Newsletters on a quarterly basis.

Media

Date	Communication Summary	Communication Title
1-Jun-16	Print Media article outlining the regulatory status of the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.	2016-06-01 Print Media with The Free Press, about Media Coverage
23-Feb-16	Print article covering the Project-related discussion with the Crowsnest Pass council, noting upcoming information sessions scheduled for various locations in the area.	2016-03-23 Print Media with the Pincher Creek Echo, about Media Coverage
10-Feb-16	Print Media article in the Pincher Creek Echo outlining the regulatory status of the Grassy Mountain Coal Project	2016-03-10 Print Media with the Pincher Creek Echo, about Media Coverage
3-Feb-16	Print Media article outlining the regulatory status of the Grassy Mountain Coal Project, highlighting the role of statements of concern or support.	2016-02-03 Print Media with the Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
27-Jan-16	Print article covering the Bellevue Underground Mine’s acquisition of an historic locomotive, with financial and practical support from Benga, among others.	2016-01-27 Print Media with the Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage

Table 3.1-18 Media Articles		
Date	Communication Summary	Communication Title
27-Jan-16	Print article highlighting the Australia Day celebration hosted on Jan 23, 2015 by Benga, with proceeds directed to a local school.	2016-01-27 Print Media with the Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
13-Jan-16	Letter to the Editor describing fishermen's experiences fishing in Gold Creek during the summer of 2015 and referencing the Grassy Mountain Coal Project's proposed impacts.	2016-01-13 Print Media with the Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
8-Jan-15	Media coverage in the Lethbridge Herald addressing economic and water-related issues as they relate to the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.	2016-01-08 Print Media with the Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
12-Dec-15	Print coverage in the Pincher Creek Echo of the October 29, 2015	2015-12-15a Print Media with the Pincher Creek Echo, about Media Coverage
12-Dec-15	Print Media article announcing Benga's filing of the EIA for the Project and noting the regulatory hurdles that the project faces. Information related to the filing of Statements of Concern is noted.	2015-12-15b Print Media with the Pincher Creek Echo, about Media Coverage
10-Dec-15	Media article in the Free Press general information about the project.	2015-12-10 Print Media with the Free Press, about Media Coverage
9-Dec-15	Print article highlighting the federal government's declaration of the creeks adjacent to the Grassy Mountain Project as critical habitat for cutthroat providing trout. The article also addresses some of Benga's proposed mitigation strategies to address such concerns.	2015-12-09 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
2-Dec-15	Print Media article noting Environment Canada's indication that the project would impact water quality in Blairmore and Gold Creeks. Riversdale's response to water-related concerns were noted.	2015-12-02 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
18-Nov-15	Print Media article advising that Benga had filed the Project's EIA with regulators.	2015-11-18c Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
18-Nov-15	Letter to the Editor expressing concern for the area's limited industrial tax base and support for the proposed Project.	2015-11-18b Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
12-Nov-15	Media coverage in the Pincher Creek Echo of the October 29, 2015 Open House held at the MDM Community Centre.	2015-11-15 Print Media with Pincher Creek Echo, about Media Coverage
4-Nov-15	Media coverage in the Crowsnest Pass Herald of the October 29, 2015 Open House held at the MDM Community Centre.	2015-11-04a Print Media with Ezra Black of Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
4-Nov-15	Editorial addressing the unofficial discussions related to potential tax revenue sharing discussions held between the MD of Ranchland and the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.	2015-11-04b Print Media with Ezra Black of Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
4-Nov-15	Media article recounting Benga's declaration that the event that resulted in a detection of contaminants in Gold Creek in	2015-11-04c Print Media with Ezra Black of Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media

Table 3.1-18 Media Articles		
Date	Communication Summary	Communication Title
	July 2015 was a result of legacy mining impacts, which would be reclaimed were the proposed Project to go forward.	Coverage
4-Nov-15	Letter to the Editor in support of the proposed Project countering an earlier Letter to the Editor which was critical of the Project.	2015-11-04 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
4-Nov-15	Print Media article covering activities related to developing the proposed Load Out facility adjacent to the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club.	2015-11-04d Print Media with Ezra Black of Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
21-Oct-15	Print Media coverage of Benga's presentation on October 14, 2015 which addressed socioeconomic effects of the proposed Project, as well as environmental matters.	2015-10-15 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
29-Sep-15	Media coverage on Benga Open House on April 22 in CNP Herald	2015-09-29 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
22-Sep-15	Letter to the Editor voicing general support of the project while addressing the particular impacts of the Load Out facility location options.	2015-09-22 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
17-Sep-15	Media Coverage on agreement between Benga and Westshore Terminals	2015-09-17 Print Media with Canada Newswire, about Media Coverage
16-Aug-15	Web blog of Green Party's Romy Tittel and Gold Creek issues with Grassy Mtn Project	2015-08-16 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
29-Jul-15	Announcement of new Manager of Sustainable Development joining Benga team published in CNP Herald.	2015-07-29 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
29-Jul-15	Media coverage of Benga request for Gold Creek Water License from Municipality of CNP	2015-07-29 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
29-Jul-15	Media Coverage on CEAA announcement of public funding available for public comment on Benga's permit application	2015-07-29 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
29-Jul-15	Media Coverage on Benga's discussions with the CNP Council regarding the Golf Course and Load Out facility.	2015-07-29 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
22-Jul-15	Letter to editor of CNP Herald speaking of rationale for support of River Bottom Load Out	2015-07-22 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
8-Jul-15	Media Coverage on Grassy Mountain Project and effect on Golf Course, positive or negative.	2015-07-08 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage

Table 3.1-18 Media Articles		
Date	Communication Summary	Communication Title
19-May-15	Letter to the Editor in the CNP Herald in response to Benga's letter dated May 12, 2015, voicing concerns over Benga's exit survey and statements made therefrom.	2015-05-19 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
13-May-15	Letter to the editor suggesting a referendum be held on the Grassy Mountain Project published in the CNP Herald.	2015-05-13 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
12-May-15	Benga forwarded a letter to stakeholders advising of outcome of Open House on April 22. The CNP Herald published the letter.	2015-05-12 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
6-May-15	Media Coverage on the Bengala Mine comparison to Benga' Grassy Mountain Project in the CNP Herald.	2015-05-06 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
29-Apr-15	Print Media article highlighting community response at the April 22, 2015 Open house.	2015-04-29 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
22-Apr-15	Media Coverage on Benga negotiations with Asian markets.	2015-04-22 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
15-Apr-15	Article in Alberta Outdoorsman voicing concerns related to the project.	2015-04-15 Print Media with Alberta Outdoorsman, about Media Coverage
11-Mar-15	John Pundyk's article in the CNP Herald talking about Benga and the Grassy Mountain Project.	2015-03-11 Print Media with John Pundyk, about Media Coverage
28-Jan-15	Print Media coverage of the Australia Day Celebration hosted on January 24, 2015 by Benga, with proceeds donated to two local causes.	2015-01-28 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
30-Dec-14	Print Media Article on Benga and Grassy Mountain Project in Canadian Business Journal.	2014-12-30 Print Media with Canadian Business Journal, about Media Coverage
16-Dec-14	Print Media coverage on agreement between Benga and Westshore Terminals	2014-12-16 Print Media with Canada Newswire, about Media Coverage
5-Nov-14	Letter to the Mayor and Council from landowners of property located adjacent to the proposed Coleman load out option, expressing concern about its proposed location.	2014-11-05 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald , about Media Coverage
30-Oct-14	Print Media article in the Lethbridge Herald regarding coal mining returning to Crowsnest Pass.	2014-10-30 Print Media with Melissa Villeneuve, Lethbridge Herald, about Media Coverage,

Table 3.1-18 Media Articles		
Date	Communication Summary	Communication Title
22-Oct-14	Media Coverage discussing the rail load out option, related concerns, and Benga's plans to address those concerns.	2014-10-22 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
8-Oct-14	Media Coverage following the Open House that unveiled the rail load out options.	2014-10-08 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Rail Access,
4-Sep-14	Benga Mining contacted the Pass Herald in order advertise the Open House.	2014-09-04 Phone with Cierra Shortreed, Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage, Rail Access,
4-Sep-14	Benga Mining contacted Jennifer to prepare advertising of the Open House in the Crowsnest Free Press.	2014-09-04 Phone with Jennifer Pinkerton, Crowsnest Free Press, about Media Coverage, Rail Access,
21-Aug-14	Joni McFarlane wanted to do an article on the current status of the project. Benga Mining Project Manager also took her on a site tour.	2014-08-21 In-Person/Face-to-face with Joni McFarlane, Crowsnest Free Press, about Media Coverage, Site Tour,
20-Aug-14	Benga Mining Project Manager and Community Liaison gave a project update to Mayor and Council (see August 12) and addressed safety concerns of motorbikes accessing the site area. The Pass Herald published an article on the discussion.	2014-08-20 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage, Public safety concerns - traffic,
30-May-14	Benga Mining forwarded an invitation to the Public Forum to the editor of the Pincher Creek Echo.	2014-05-30 Email with Greg Cowan, Pincher Creek Echo, about Stakeholder Affairs (Formal), Media Coverage,
27-Mar-14	Print Media article highlighting the purchase of a Speedboard Message Sign purchased for the Crowsnest Pass with financial support from a consortium of parties, including Benga.	2014-03-14 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Free Press, about Media Coverage
25-Mar-14	Print Media article covering the meeting, project update provided to the MD of Pincher Creek Reeve and Council on March 11, 2014.	2014-03-25 Print Media with Pincher Creek Echo, about Media Coverage,
13-Feb-14	Print Media article covering the Australia Day celebration hosted on January 25, 2014 by Benga, with proceeds donated to the Crowsnest Pass Health Foundation.	2014-02-14 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Free Press, about Media Coverage
29-Jan-14	Print Media article on the Project and comments from council during Benga's update to them on January 21, 2014.	2014-01-29 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
22-Oct-13	Media Coverage of Open Public Forum held by Benga in Crowsnest Pass.	2013-10-22 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
16-Oct-13	Print Media coverage of the progress briefing Benga made to Mayor and Council on the Afternoon of October 15, 2013.	2013-10-16 Print Media with Joni McFarlane, Crowsnest Voice, about Media Coverage,

Table 3.1-18 Media Articles		
Date	Communication Summary	Communication Title
10-Sep-13	Media Coverage on CNP Mayor Decoux's comments about the purchase of the mineral leases by Benga.	2013-09-10 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage
15-Feb-13	Print Media Report on the meeting Benga Representatives had with the MD of Ranchland on February 5, 2013.	2013-02-15 Print Media with Nanton News, about Media Coverage,
12-Feb-13	Print Media Coverage on Open Public Forum held at Elks Hall by Benga. Forum allowed the local residents to meet the faces of Benga and ask questions regarding the possibility of coal mining in Crowsnest Pass.	2013-02-12 Print Media with Crowsnest Pass Herald, about Media Coverage, Stakeholder Engagement - Project Overview,
16-Jan-13	Print media article with an interview with Managing Director Steve Mallyon and his optimism with the Grassy Mountain Project and the experienced work force available in the community.	2013-01-16 Print Media with Joni McFarlane, Crowsnest Pass Promoter, about Media Coverage, Economic Development, Stakeholder Engagement - Project Overview,
15-Jan-13	Media article on Mayor of Municipality of Crowsnest Pass holding press conference to announce Benga' plan to begin mining Grassy Mountain. Also announces the plan for Benga to hold an Open House in February.	2013-01-15 Print Media with Crowsnest Free Press, about Media Coverage,

Community Investment

Australia Day

Australia celebrates their national day on January 26. As Benga is an Australian company, a charitable dinner and dance is held in Crowsnest Pass to celebrate the day civilization first set foot on the country's soil. The general public is invited and proceeds raised from the event go to support local needs.

Australia Day 2014 – A donation was made to the Crowsnest Pass Health Foundation.

Australia Day 2015 – A donation was made to the Crowsnest Pass Boys and Girls Society and to Elise Kwan, a young girl and her family trying to meet the costly challenges of her medical issues.

Australia Day 2016 – A donation was made to the Horace Allen School.

Other Sponsorships

2/13/2014	Benga Mining had a fund raiser and made cash donation from the fund raiser to the Crowsnest Pass Health Foundation.
2/25/2014	Benga Mining sponsored the Kananaskis Pro Rodeo. The Rodeo takes place April 25, 26, and 27 at the Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex.
3/3/2014	Benga Mining provided Ducks Unlimited with a cash donation and some door prizes for their fund raising event on March 15.
3/20/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the local minor soccer club.
3/20/2014	Benga Mining sponsored the purchase of a speed sign for the community of Crowsnest Pass. The sign sits on a small trailer and is set up at various locations on the highway to display driver's speed. It can also be programmed to display messages to the public (ie: Fire bans, street re-route, emergency messages, etc.).
3/26/2014	Benga Mining donated some prizes to the Crowsnest Wintervention as door prizes for their function.
3/28/2014	Benga Mining made a cash and other items donation to the Crowsnest Pass Curling Club for their Bunny Bonspiel.
3/31/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to sponsor the Crowsnest Pass Minor Lacrosse.
4/22/2014	Benga Mining sponsored the Hillcrest Mine Disaster Memorial Site for the 100 Anniversary Ceremony of the Disaster by providing a cash donation.
4/24/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Ricky Ryp Foundation to assist in their fund raiser golf tournament.
6/30/2014	Benga Mining sponsored the Crowsnest Pass Show and Shine car show by providing a cash donation and a prize to be given away as a door prize.
7/3/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Kathy Allsop Memorial Golf Tournament which is a fund raiser for the Crowsnest Pass Health Foundation.
7/15/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Boys and Girls Club of Crowsnest Pass.
7/21/2014	Benga Mining provided a prize donation to give away as a door prize for the Alzheimer's Walk in Blairmore.
8/8/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Pincher Creek Ag Society to sponsor Pincher Creek Rodeo.
9/23/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Museum/Historical Society to sponsor their annual Harvest of Memories. Some prizes were also donate to give away as door prizes.
9/30/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Minor Hockey to assist in the WHL Thunder Challenge.
10/14/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Assoc. to assist in their Grizzly Bear Monitoring Project.
11/3/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Conservation Society to assist in the Wildsight program
11/24/2014	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Food Bank.
12/16/2014	Benga Mining sponsored the Crow Snow Riders for the 2015 season. A cash donation was made.
1/19/2015	Hillcrest Fish and Game requested a donation to sponsor the Bighorn Sheep Monitoring Project. A cash

Table 3.1-19 Other Sponsorships	
	donation was made.
1/19/2015	Crowsnest Cando requested Benga sponsor their Wintervention Fund Raiser again this year. Sponsorship included a table at the dinner that Benga staff attended. Fas Gas gas cards were also provided as a door prize give away.
2/1/2015	The literacy foundation requested we sponsor their local program. A cash donation was made.
2/1/2015	Benga Mining sponsored the Kananaskis Pro Rodeo again this year. A cash donation was provided.
3/2/2015	Benga sponsored the Crowsnest Curling Club's Bunny Bonspiel again this year. A couple of Fas Gas gas cards were provided to give away as prizes.
4/20/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Pass Historical Society's Door Open Festival.
4/30/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Pass Dance Society
5/21/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Kathy Allsop Golf Tournament again for the second year.
6/19/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Pass Adult Soccer to assist in paying for their jerseys.
7/14/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Ricky Ryp Charity Golf Tournament.
7/14/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Bellevue Underground Mine to pay for the bar-b-cue to celebrate the Miner Days during the Door Open Festival.
7/14/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Pass Piranhas swim club.
7/23/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Pass Golf Club to sponsor their three major club tournaments.
8/31/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Pass Swimming Pool to sponsor the Beach Party. It was the last day the pool is open for the summer.
9/2/2015	Benga purchased a table to attend the Harvest of Memories Gala on September 26.
9/18/2015	Benga made a cash donation to the Thunder Challenge Hockey Tournament to support Crowsnest Pass Minor Hockey.
10/25/2015	Benga Mining made a cash donation to sponsor the Halloween Spooktacular held at the MDM Community Center. The purpose of the event was to give the kids in the community a safer alternative to trick or treating.
11/4/2015	Benga Mining made a cash donation to sponsor the Peigan Panthers senior hockey team.
12/11/2015	Benga Mining provided to CANDO a cash donation as a sponsor to the 2016 Wintervention.
12/15/2015	Benga provided a cash donation to the Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad.
1/26/2016	Benga Mining provided gifts to give away at the annual trophy night at the Hillcrest Fish and Game Association.
2/10/2016	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Literacy Foundation for their "Sponsor a Student" Campaign.
3/1/2016	Benga Mining provided a cash contribution as well as an in-kind donation to Alberta Conservation Association's Grizzly Bear Inventory Project.

Table 3.1-19 Other Sponsorships	
3/2/2016	Benga Mining donated prizes to the Crowsnest Curling Club for their 2016 Bunny Bonspiel.
3/10/2016	Benga Mining made a cash donation to local chapter of Ducks Unlimited.
3/11/2016	Benga Mining made a cash donation to sponsor the 2016 Kananaskis Pro Rodeo.
4/5/2016	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Pass Dance Society to sponsor their annual year end dance show program.
5/10/2016	Benga Mining made a cash donation to sponsor the Pincher Creek Mud Bog held on July 16 put on by the Western Mud Slingers.
5/13/2016	Benga Mining provided a cash donation via the Napi Friendship Center to sponsor the Horse Spirit Indian Relay and Rough Stock Event.
5/15/2016	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Bellevue Underground Mine to sponsor this summer's Miner's Picnic.
5/16/2016	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Pass Piranha Swim Club to pay for their team shirts.
6/1/2016	Benga Mining made a cash donation to the Crowsnest Pass Heath Foundation to sponsor the Kathy Allsop Charity Golf Tournament.
6/3/2016	Benga Mining contributed funds to sponsor a scholarship for a graduate of the Piikani Nation Secondary School.

Project Changes to Resolve Community Concerns

Various rail alignment and Load-Out options. Most feasible options included two valley bottom siding alignments and the Golf Course option. Golf Course option taken despite higher estimated cost.

Load-Out moved to back of rail loop.

Agreement to purchase lands from local landowners situated in the proposed mine permit boundary.

Funding to Golf Course committee to conduct golf course realignment and planning.

Repositioning of waste disposal areas (to north and south of mine pit alignments, rather than east and west alignments) to mitigate for significant negative impacts to the Blairmore Creek and Gold Creek aquatic environments.

Coordination of a potential Grassy Mountain Environmental Stewardship Program to facilitate a collaborative approach with multiple stakeholders (e.g., provincial and federal government agencies, provincial conservation groups, industry) to further protect and enhance the aquatic environments associated with the Gold Creek and Blairmore Creek watersheds.

Alternative energy sources. Potential purchase of wind generated power from the Piikani First Nations.

The rail crossing location over Blairmore Creek was adjusted northward to allay concerns expressed by Alberta Transportation.

The helipad location, and its access road, were relocated due to their proximity to the future golf course expansion.

The location of the construction camp site was adjusted to prevent its encroachment on a cattle pen.

Appendix 6b

Media Examples

[SKIP TO CONTENT](#)

HUGE Community Garage Sale
 Where: **Ironstone Lookout**
NEW DATE Saturday November 16
 CLICK FOR DETAILS



September 10th, 2013 ~ Vol. 83 No. 35

\$1.00

Riversdale 'Complex' gets green light



Herald staff photo

A view of the valley from the top of the Greenhills Mine north of Blairmore.

DIEGO SYZ
Pass Herald Reporter

Riversdale Resources Ltd., an Australian-based mining company has recently completed an acquisition of the Crowsnest Pass Complex.

A move that will prove a major economic windfall and bring major industry back to the region for the first time in 30 years, according to Crowsnest Pass mayor Bruce Decoux.

"The acquisition is a culmination of a number of transactions finalizing in a mine development here," he says.

The return of major industry to Crowsnest Pass means more local jobs, according to Decoux.

This facility will hire on 100 people initially, says Decoux who continues, for every person hired another seven jobs will be created (according to the company's hiring record).

The Crowsnest Pass Complex consists of the Grassy Mountain Coal Project, the Adanac, Lynx Creek and Bellevue according to a statement of transaction from Riversdale Resources.

Riversdale Resources Ltd.,

Riversdale will undertake drilling programs, environmental impact studies, First Nations and Community consultation and commence the feasibility study over the next year, according to the Statement.

Grassy Mountain offers a competitive opportunity for hard coking coal development opportunity and also has close access to a rail system with ports across the country, according to the statement.

Grassy Mountain is a near term development hard coking coal and thermal project, the Statement says.

Bellevue, Adanac and Lynx Creek are coal properties that represent an opportunity for additional coal reserves and resources, according to the statement.

Riversdale along with CONSOL Energy Inc. and Devon Canada are partners in the Grassy Mountain Project, according to the Statement. The Grassy Mountain Project is a part of the Crowsnest Pass Complex, about 150 kilometres south of Calgary, Alberta, near the towns of Blairmore and Coleman.

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completed a pre-feasibility study and has re-assessed the quality of the coal quality data, according to the Statement of Transaction.

**PREVIOUS
STORY**

**NEXT
STORY**

news@passherald.ca 403-562-2248

September 10th, 2013 ~ Vol. 83 No. 35

\$1.00

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Riversdale guests give large to local health foundation



Trustee Oliver Strickland (left) and Becky Rinaldi (centre), Chair of the Crowsnest Pass Health Foundation, accepted a cheque for over \$6,500 from Riversdale's Operations Manager, Peter Murray (left) on Feb. 5. The funds were raised by guests at Riversdale's recent Australia Day celebration held on Jan. 25.

Submitted

On Jan. 25, Riversdale hosted an Australia day celebration to coincide with Australia Day celebrations in Australia on Jan. 26.

Riversdale invited those that had assisted in some way with the smooth transition of the Riversdale team into Crowsnest Pass. About 130 people

attended the celebration and all proceeds were donated to the Crowsnest Pass Health Foundation.

The night included Managing Director Steve Mallyon and family, and Anthony Martin CFO. Hosts for the evening were Peter and Stacy Murray and team Riversdale within the Operations group.

Due to the generosity of peo-

Photo submitted
ple of Crowsnest Pass, \$6,596 was raised by auctioning of Australian memorabilia, door donations and drink purchases.

It is agreed within the Riversdale team that the people of Crowsnest Pass are very generous and are actively assisting Riversdale's transition into the area. We thank the Crowsnest Pass for everything they have done for us.

Mine time?



By Greg Cowan, Pincher Creek Echo
Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:25:47 MDT AM



File photo

Riversdale Resources spoke in front of M.D. council on Tuesday, March 11, to update the progress of their Grassy Mountain coal exploration project.

The project is taking place north of the Crowsnest Pass municipality.

It began in December 2013 and will continue until the Spring of 2014.

Operations Manager Peter Murray told council the exploration holes have so far indicated very promising coal seams in the area.

“So far the samples that are coming back have been very, very good,” said Murray. “We had estimated maybe 2.2 million tonnes a year and we think we may have upped that another 1 million.” If technological studies and permit applications allow, Riversdale Resources plan to proceed with development of the open-cut coal mine.

Riversdale representatives told council they have been conducting ongoing environmental baseline studies and have engaged in communication with First Nations communities.

Riversdale has also engaged in public consultations for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. In literature handed to council they noted:

“There appears to be an overlap along the east of our coal lease areas and the proposed Livingstone Range Wildland Provincial Park. We are confident that the Grassy Mountain Project can co-exist beneficially with high value conservation areas.”

Murray told council the project is about two years away from laying down rail and transportation routes.

“We are looking at 2018 for shovels in the ground,” he said. According to Murray, the coal will be mined and cleaned and then sent overseas to countries like China and Japan to be manufactured into steel.

The area’s resources can also be blended to increase market share.

The proposed mine will spread through the Crowsnest Pass and Ranchlands municipal districts but will have a further reaching economic impact. Murray told council Riversdale would be responsible for the reclamation of the area extending ten years after the mine’s projected 28-year life span.

“As we take from the ground we fill in with the separate top-soil,” Murray explained. “Then once the mine is finished we will complete the reclamation project.”

The mine will create over 1000 contracting jobs over the next four years, according to Murray, and more labour jobs when the mine is live.

Temporary accommodation near or on the mine site is the plan to house to employees at this stage, but that could change.

Councillor Terry Yagos asked if the project would be as controversial as the proposed Burmis Magnetite Project, a notion Murray quickly rejected explaining the Riversdale mine would simply be for metallurgical coal used in steel production.

“We’re just coal miners.”

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Speed sign ramps up awareness around Pass



Celebrating the arrival of the Variable Speedboard Message sign last week were (left to right): Keith Bott, Riversdale Resources representative, Stephen Zerr, Community Peace Officer, Aggie Mitchell, Police Advisory Board, Doreen Glavin, Deputy Mayor, Police Advisory Board Chair, George Dowson, Citizens on Patrol Chair, Susan Demchuk, and M.D. Pincher Creek RCMP detachment Constable Doug Sokoloski.

Photo by J. MacFarlane

By Joni MacFarlane
Editor

Speeders beware. An electronic portable message sign arrived in Crowsnest Pass that is now being seen throughout the community.

Purchased with the help of Riversdale Resources, Teck and Crowsnest Citizens on Patrol, the Variable Speedboard Message Sign is portable and sits on a trailer that can be moved

from location to location.

As well as posting speed limits and road closures, the sign will post messages advising motorists of events and other road information.

The sign will be used on both residential streets and highways.

These types of signs normally sell for over \$22,000 but a one-year old demo used at trade shows was selected for a cost of \$12,400.

Council approved the recommendation to purchase the sign by the Police Advisory Board to council in late February.

Community Peace Officer Stephen Zerr said the sign is very diverse and can be used for many purposes.

Not only can it be used as a speed awareness tool, the camera takes photos at timed intervals. It also has data tracking capabilities that can measure how many

cars are using the highway, how fast they are going, and other traffic flow information.

Text is programmed remotely by Peace Officers through a blue tooth device.

"There are so many diverse possibilities for this sign," he said.

Zerr said the sign can be used by the RCMP, the Fire/Rescue department and municipal Public Works to relay road information.

Flood recovery work approved

By Joni MacFarlane
Editor

More work will get underway to repair municipal sites damaged by a flooding incident in June 2013.

Members of council have been pushing for approvals as winter melt begins and flood season nears.

Tender No. 2 involving damage in west Coleman at Knoll's Flats Access Road and the Willow Drive culvert crossing on Star Creek, was approved on March 13 and work will start immediately.

ISL Engineering's Stephen Burnell said the project includes ditch grading and shaping, pit run, excavation, asphalt removal and disposal and new asphalt installation.

Council approved the recommendation of Grumpy's Landscaping as the lowest bidder with a price of \$50,707 (incl. GST). Their initial bid was just under \$30,000, said Burnell, and included some calculation errors.

"The errors did not affect the tender outcome," he said. "When things were worked out, they were still the low bid and they complied with everything for the tender submission and they were below the engineer's estimate of \$52,290."

There were two other bids on this project - Arboricultural Services Inc. at \$105,113 and DeGraaf Excavating Ltd. \$127,989.

The project is to be finished by Sept. 30 and is com-

pletely funded through the province's Disaster Recovery Program (DRP).

As the snow melts, said Burnell, they will be reviewing the project. If necessary, work can be added on as a change order.

"As long as work meets the DRP, or the [Flood Recovery Erosion Control Program], it can be added on to the contracts that will be in place," he assured council.

Bids were also submitted for Tender No. 5 for work on 10 sites at Hillcrest's Byron Creek and upstream of 4th Ave. on Drum Creek through to the Crowsnest River.

The tender closed March 6 but submissions were still being reviewed and further information has been re-

quested, Burnell said.

A recommendation will come to council on March 25, he added.

Tender No. 4 is for the North portion of East Hillcrest Drive and the Hillcrest Reservoir Access Road for brush and tree removal, ditch grading and topsoil placement.

Three bids were submitted - DeGraaf Excavating Ltd. \$224,345, Arboricultural Services Inc. \$128,047, and Grumpy's Landscaping Ltd. \$56,693.

Burnell said there were questions for some of the bidders and submissions are being reviewed.

Tender No. 3 for work on Lyons Creek in Blairmore is still awaiting provincial Water Act approvals, he added.

Email scams on the rise

By Joni MacFarlane
Editor

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is warning Canadians that fraudulent emails purporting to be from the Agency are currently circulating.

Some of the scams being sent notify the email recipient that the Agency has sent an Interac transfer and is trying to deposit funds into their bank account. The email goes on to explain what an Interac email money transfer is and asks the person to click on a web link.

Another scam says that a criminal complaint has been filed against the email recipient and that the company they are affiliated with is being accused of tax evasion. The email asks for an official response with web links for more information.

There are about eight variations of these email scams and Crowsnest Pass residents are advised that the CRA does not request personal information of any kind from taxpayers by email.

They do not leave personal information on answering machines or divulge taxpayers' information to another person without formal authorization.

Canadians should not respond to such fraudulent communications or give out personal information by email. For more information, call 1-888-495-8501.

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And, of course, the many people who volunteered to make chili and work on course.
We appreciate your enthusiastic support of our event!



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



SANDRA & DAN MULLEN

Giving back comes naturally for Sandra and Dan Mullen who have been involved with the Special Olympics for 11 years. Dan, who coaches and manages the ski team (and is soon adding golf), and Sandra who is the key

organizer, driver and all things in between, started the Crowsnest Pass team in 2011.

"God gave us this gift," said Sandra. "He gave us this extra measure of patience and love so we could do this. It's good to be able to use it."

In addition to their commitment to Special Olympics and their son Philip's ski career, the Mullens have given a home to two other young men also involved in athletic pursuits.

"We get more from the Special Olympic athletes than they get from us," Sandra said. Dan agreed that there are many rewards.

"The support to date from the community has been wonderful," he added.

The Mullens encourage others to get involved with Special Olympics and visit the website for more information at specialolympics.ab.ca.

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Environmental issues raised at Riversdale open house

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Crowsnest River

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

Selenium contamination of the community's water resources will be an issue for the proposed Grassy Mountain coal project, said Dane McCoy, Millennium EMS Solutions (MEMS) environmental coordinator.

"The geology of the Crowsnest Pass is the same geology as the Elk Valley," said McCoy. "We believe we will have the same type of issue [that Teck Coal has been dealing with]. Selenium will be present."

Though Blairmore Creek and the Crowsnest River will be near the project, a combination of prevention and water treatment should minimize the impact on the environment, said McCoy.

"If you know about it early, you can design your mine to minimize how much gets into the system," said McCoy.

Designing dumps that resist infiltration from snowmelt and rainfall can control selenium and other substances found in waste rock, said McCoy.

"You can take that water and treat it, or you can take your dump and make it so the water does not infiltrate it," said McCoy. "It actually runs off of it instead of infiltrating it by making the dump a little steeper."

In the Elk Valley, Teck Coal has had its own issues with selenium contamination.

A 2013 report by Ric Hauer of the Flathead Lake Biological Station at the University of Montana found toxic levels of selenium in the Elk River.

The study, commissioned by Glacier National Park, compared water quality in the Elk River with the neighbouring Flathead River basin. The researchers tested above and below mines and used the pristine water quality of the nearby Flathead River to determine background levels, and ascertain what aquatic life would normally be present in the Elk River were it not so polluted.

Selenium levels were 10 times higher in the Elk River, and there were also increased levels of nitrogen and sulphate present.

In April, one of the three water wells servicing Sparwood had to be shut down because of elevated selenium levels.

The selenium levels in the well reached 0.01mg/l, which was the Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) set by Health Canada Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

The local economy relies heavily on Teck, which employs about 3700 people at five coal mines in the Elk Valley.

Last year B.C.'s Environment Minister Terry Lake announced no new coal mines would be approved in the Elk Valley until Teck developed a system to manage selenium concentrations in the Elk River.

In 2013 Ian Kilgour, Teck's executive vice president and chief operating officer, said the company would invest \$600 million into research, water diversion and treatment.

Selenium is a naturally occurring element, commonly found in rocks and soil. Natural sources of selenium include coal, and other fossil fuel deposits.

continued below...



A 2006 study prepared for Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Environment on the tissues of fish from the Upper McLeod and Upper Smoky river systems, show elevated levels of selenium can lead to reduced growth, reproductive impairment, gill damage, and increased mortality in fish.

In the meantime, McCoy said MEMS is undertaking exploratory drilling of the rock profile, taking samples, and measuring them for selenium and other potentially dangerous substances.

"That helps us understand how much of it might be present and how we might manage it once the project is operational," says McCoy.

McCoy is a senior environmental and applications specialist with almost 30 years of experience in project management, reclamation planning, and waste and water management.

He's worked on many major coal projects in the province and was the environment and reclamation manager at the Coal Valley mine, which is south of Edson, for 12 years.

Riversdale Resources has employed MEMS to undertake environmental studies of Grassy Mountain since acquiring the property from CONSOL and Devon Canada for about \$50 million in 2013.

Other environmental concerns

MEMS is conducting several environmental studies on the Grassy Mountain Coal Project, said McCoy at a Riversdale Resources open house at the Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex on Sept. 30.

"See that hill there," said McCoy pointing to a stepped hill south of Coleman, "that whole hill all the way along there. That's all old waste rock that came out of a mine. It was dumped there and then reclaimed."

"We'll have some dumps that will look like that at the end of the day. We'll most likely do a lot of reforestation on it," he said. "Of course those landforms don't look completely natural but if you plant trees on them it masks some of the engineered bumps, which are necessary for safety."

Mining on Grassy Mountain started as far back as the early 1900s with surface mining stopping around the 1970s.

MEMS began environmental baseline studies over a year ago including wildlife surveys where about 25 wildlife cameras were spread around the project area. Personnel visit the cameras every five or six months to

obtain the data.

Water studies have been measuring flows, and quality of water and air monitoring stations have been set up.

This summer MEMS increased the pace of its work, doing soil studies, vegetation studies, and more intensive fish and wildlife studies.

"The idea being that when we've surveyed the area enough we'll understand it fully, so we know what's out there," said McCoy.

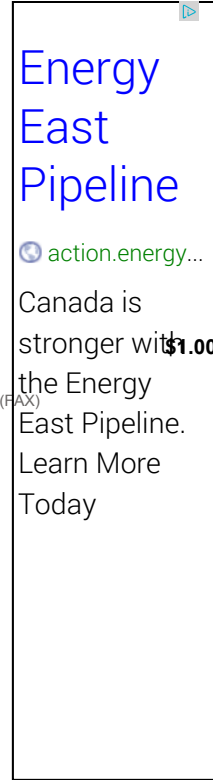
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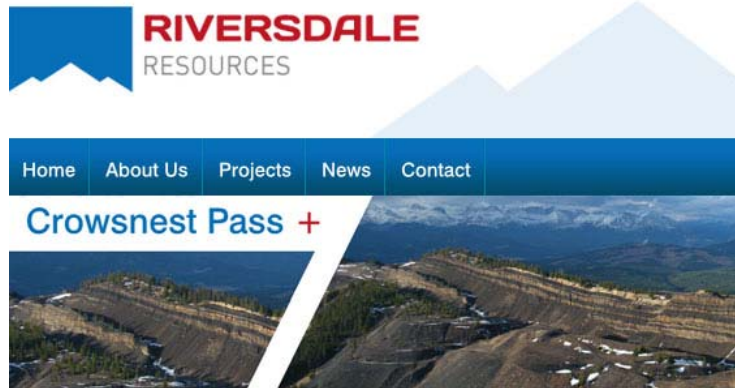
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Riversdale Resources unveils rail load out options

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Source: [Riversdale Resources website](#)

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

On Sept. 30, the Crowsnest Pass came one step closer to having a working coal mine as Riversdale Resources revealed three rail load out options for the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project.

All three proposed options involve a conveyor belt transporting coal to a train-load out facility on secondary tracks along the railroad near Highway 3.

Two of the options would mean laying a looped track through about nine holes of the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club. The clubhouse could also be affected. Both of these options call for trains traveling under Highway 3.

"We talked to all of the parties we could that would be affected by these options," said Riversdale Vice President of Technical Services David Leslie at an open house on Sept. 30, "We tried to do it ahead of the open house as wanted them to be the first to know."

The third option calls for a siding along the existing CP Rail track with a load-out about 2 kilometers west of the Golf and Country Club near Coleman. This option involves running a coal conveyor under Highway 3 west of the Tim Hortons in Blairmore.

Riversdale is proposing a clad in, insulated load out structure about 15 metres high. The overland conveyor would also be closed to reduce dust. All the rolling parts underneath the conveyor would be caged in and the structure would be raised in areas to allow for wildlife crossings, said Leslie.

The conveyor would feed a storage structure, which would be a low rectangular building about two stories high containing an entire trainload of coal. A high-speed conveyor would move coal from the storage structure to the load-out structure at the rate of about 2000 tons per hour, said Leslie.

Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club President responds

Riversdale personnel revealed the proposed load-out options to representatives from the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club on Sept. 29.

Golf and Country Club President Rob Amatto said the meeting was

scheduled to inform his staff ahead of the general public. He says no final decision has been made and was non-committal over what changes might be made to the golf course.

"It depends which option is taken," said Amatto. "If it comes to it we'll have to worry about it, but nothing is written in stone."

Riversdale community liaison Keith Bott was more forthcoming.

"There would be no need to entirely move the golf course," said Bott. "We would sit down and talk about where the other holes could be relocated."

continued below...



Rail siding from Coleman to Blairmore

The load-out options need to accommodate the limitations of rail transport, said Leslie, as the maximum grade for a coal train is one and a half per cent.

To accommodate loading, 5.6 kilometers of siding rail will need to be built along the existing CP track. The siding rail would fit a train with 152 cars and three locomotives and will stretch from West Coleman to the CP Bridge in West Blairmore.

That much siding rail will interfere with access points in the community, including the only rail crossing into Bushtown.

An overpass structure would have to be designed to allow emergency services into Bushtown because a waiting train would block access for up to eight hours, said Bott.

The rail siding would also block Drain Brothers Construction in Blairmore and an overpass would be required for that, possibly built near the Tim Hortons, said Bott.

Coal travels west

A train would come completely off the main line to load. CP would then take the train and then head off west. The whole process would take four to eight hours, said Leslie.

The mine is expected to produce 2 to 4 million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year. Leslie said that at 2 million tonnes, this would mean a train every three days and a train every day and a half at 4 million tonnes.

A train of 152 cars would carry 16 thousand tonnes of product heading to market. A standard aluminum rail car can fit 106 metric tonnes of coal, he said.

Shelly Reid, coal account manager with CP, said the preferred option would be transporting the coal to Westshore Terminals, a large coal loading port south of Vancouver.

The alternative is Ridley Terminals in Prince Rupert, which would mean switching to CN rail because they service that terminal. It would also be a more expensive option because it is a longer route.

Economic benefits

According to a Riversdale release, the construction of the mine would employ an estimated 400 to 500 workers, at the busiest of times.

If it becomes operational, the mine will employ 300 to 400 fulltime workers.

Coal would be mined from three main seams ranging from near surface to 200 to 300 metres below ground level. The largest seam can be 15 to 20 metres in thickness.

Rock and overburden covering the seams would be removed with heavy equipment and then hauled to disposal areas outside the pits and then placed back into the pits once the coal has been removed and space is available. The coal processing plant would be located in the southwest end of the mining area.

Pending regulatory approval, construction on the project could begin in 2017 with the mine becoming operational in 2018.

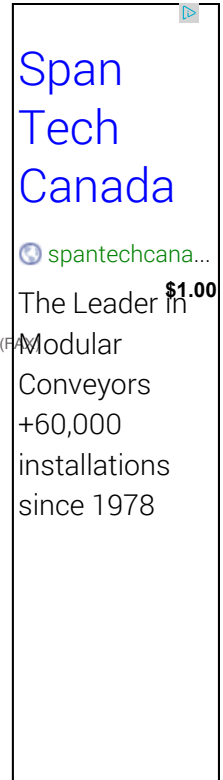
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Pro Riversdale council opposes load outs

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EZRA BLACK Pass Herald Reporter

More than three decades after Coleman Colliers shut down their load out facility, concern is building that the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project could once again leave the community under a layer of dust.

"All you've got to do is go to Coleman and ask some of the older ladies that had trouble keeping their houses clean because the load out was right next to town," said Councillor Bill Kovach.

Council is expressing its support for Riversdale Resources and the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project but does not want a load out facility built near the community.

"It would be a shame to go backwards and put up that type of facility again here in the valley," he continued. "Even if it's like Riversdale said, that it'll be 99 per cent dust free, you're still going to have a major industrial facility in the middle of the valley right next to a beautiful wetland."

About three weeks ago, Riversdale Resources revealed three rail load out options for the Grassy Mountain project, which would include a load out structure either north of Coleman or on the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club.

The load out structure would be about 15 metres high and would transfer coal from a conveyor belt to train cars.

Council passed a motion opposing the proposed rail load out options after an in-camera session of council on Oct. 7.

"I believe that our community supports Riversdale's efforts to develop a mine at Grassy Mountain. I really feel strongly about that," says Mayor Blair Painter.

"We have a long history of mining here in the Crowsnest Pass and our community understands the coal industry. But what this community does not want is industrial load out facilities in close proximity to residential areas," he continued.

On Sept. 30 Riversdale Vice President of Technical Services David Leslie explained that the overland conveyor feeding the load out structure would be closed to reduce dust. Train cars would be loaded in an enclosed space.

While Mayor Blair Painter acknowledges that these technologies will reduce the threat from coal dust, he says moving the load out as far north as possible would be better for the community, though it would be a costlier option.

"The conveyor belts will be an enclosed structure but it won't be hermetically sealed," says Painter. "What we don't want is our community to be black with dust."

Painter, a lifelong Pass resident, remembers when Coleman Colliers was operating a tippie just north of Highway 3, which coated Coleman and Blairmore in a fine layer of coal dust.

"Our community knows coal," he says. "We've gone through this. I know technology has improved through the years but the reality is coal is coal. Its black and its dusty so we want to minimize the effects to our community."

continued below...



**Shocking
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Video**

If you do not know French, you should really see this video.

You'll be absolutely shocked!

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Riversdale has been informed of council's concerns and Painter says he's hoping to find a solution that will satisfy both parties.

Riversdale community liaison Keith Bott says the company is prepared to work with the municipality to find a solution and says the three main concerns he heard from citizens at the Sept. 30 open house were coal dust, unsightly mining infrastructure and noise.

"Its forced us to sit down and come up with options," he said. "We haven't completely written it off based on that but it's forced us to come back and look for options that are esthetically acceptable, that keeps down the noise and the dust.

Riversdale owns right to develop golf course

On Sept. 30, when Riversdale unveiled the three load out options for getting coal from a potential plant site near Grassy Mountain to secondary tracks along the railroad near Highway 3, one of the options called for laying a looped track through nine holes of the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club. The clubhouse could also be affected.

Before being acquired by Riversdale, the land the golf course is built on was owned by Devon Canada and CONSOL. They seem to have been long prepared for the possibility of developing the golf course.

An agreement made between Devon, CONSOL and the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club contains two conditions, which specifically allow for using golf course land to transport coal.

According to one of the conditions, "The Grantor agrees that it will not oppose any future development applications by the Grantee for development of the coal reserves on the Grantee's properties lying north of the Devon/CONSOL Lands or the Gold Course Lands."

In plain English, this means Riversdale is legally allowed to tear up the golf course to build mining infrastructure.

Even if Riversdale agrees to move the load out structure further north, a rail line would need to be built off the main line and up through the golf course.

The second option calls for a load-out about 2 kilometers west of the Golf and Country Club in Coleman. Both of these options call for trains

traveling under Highway 3.

The third option involves running a coal conveyor under Highway 3 west of the Tim Hortons in Blairmore.

All three proposed options involve a conveyor belt transporting coal to a load out facility on secondary tracks along the railroad near Highway 3.

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Thank you council for supporting our community

Dear Mayor & Council,

As we all are aware there was recently an open house to view the proposed "Load Outs" for the Riversdale Mining project.

In discussing the options presented with the Riversdale representative we were very much concerned about the Coleman Option that was presented.

We then learned Council voted to not allow any load out option to occur on the Valley floor.

As you know we are landowners next door to this proposed site. That is of concern, but we are also writing in concern for the community as a whole.

It is our hope that this letter serves as a statement of support of Council's position.

One of the options of this proposal allowed for

the rail lines and the Load Out buildings to be behind the golf course.

At the time of our discussion there was already an anticipated re-creation of a number of golf course holes to compensate for any disruption to the Golf Course.

It appears that is the only significant Community down side to this option. The Coleman option is located alongside the highway, within close proximity to a school, close to and within a residential area, and very close to significant wetlands that is home to a large and diverse population of wildlife.

This community has attempted to foster a Tourism base. Recent re-branding of the community "Naturally Rewarding" focuses on the assets of living in this mountain community and all the beauty it holds. To place a railway

load out in the middle of this community in full view of all who travel by will indeed make a mockery of our best assets. Tourism will be impacted. Real estate will be impacted and this is not to mention the impact of community residents.

The only available school Grades 7-12 would be located across the highway from a major Coal Operation. That is not a selling feature for our community.

This community has experienced the impact on coal operations within residential areas. The air is impacted, the land and water. Coal dust cannot be contained, particularly in light of our Crowsnest Pass winds.

We have made much advancement in beautifying our community. Let us not go backwards. We are very much in support of bringing industry into our area.

Economic growth within a community is always necessary. Long-term residents know well the boom and bust cycle of the Coal industry. There are a number of communities that have centered themselves on the Coal industry only to suffer after the company was not successful.

We cannot compromise what we have in the hope that this mine will support the community. We encourage the development of this industry but not at the risk of harming this community for both tourism and future families settling here.

Thank you Mayor and Council for being forward thinking enough to allow for industry but not within the heart of the community.

Sincerely,
Terry and Melody
Michalsky, Kevin and
Lindsey Michalsky

BRICKS & Bouquets

This is your column, THE READERS, use it but please don't abuse it. All Bricks & Bouquets are expressions from OUR READERS and do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of THIS newspaper. If you wish to expressly thank someone, please use our CARD OF THANKS section of this newspaper.

We appreciate you making this column a success, and keep sending us your Bricks and Bouquets. All Bricks and Bouquets are kept on file at the Pass Herald.

BOUQUETS - To all the kids that went out at Halloween. That's the most I've ever seen. Makes it feel like a young, vibrant community.

BRICKS - To the stores putting out Christmas Decorations before Remembrance Day.

BOUQUETS - To the Grand Union Hotel for opening your doors to the public at Halloween and making it the coolest place to bring your family for a truly ghostly experience.

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The Pass Herald welcomes Letters to the Editor that examine issues, but reserves the right to edit for length, libel and syntax. Writers must sign letters and include first and last names, address and telephone number. Address and telephone numbers will not be published. Only in exceptional cases will the Pass Herald withhold the name of the writer and in those cases the writer must disclose his/her name, address and telephone number to the Editor.

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinion of the Pass Herald. Letters cannot exceed 1,000 words, we have limited space but we do enjoy printing every article. So please, to allow everyone to express their opinion, keep the letters short and to the point. We do have the right to refuse any letter that in our judgement may contain libel or libelous opinions. Should a litigation result from your letter, you as the writer are responsible but so is this newspaper as the publisher.

The Pass Herald is a family owned community newspaper and therefore reserves the right to refuse any advertisement that in our opinion does not follow our mandate. We



December 16, 2014 8:00 PM - Financial - Dividends - Financial Services
- Transportation/Trucking/Railroads

Westshore Terminals announces Q4 2014 distribution

VANCOUVER, Dec. 16, 2014 /CNW/ - Westshore Terminals Investment Corporation (TSX: WTE) (the "Corporation") announced today that a dividend of \$24,502,505 (representing \$0.33 per share) will be paid on or before January 15, 2015 to shareholders of record on December 30, 2014. The Q4 2014 dividend will be designated an "eligible dividend" for Canadian tax purposes.

For the eleven months ended November 30, 2014, Westshore loaded 28.5 million tonnes as compared to 27.4 million tonnes for the same period in 2013. For Q4 2014, Westshore anticipates it will load approximately 7.4 million tonnes compared to the 7.5 million tonnes loaded in the same period in 2013, which would result in total 2014 throughput of approximately 31.2 – 31.3 million tonnes. Q4 production results have been impacted by material maintenance to two stacker reclaimers. More ongoing maintenance overall is required to maintain the aging equipment, which is operating at near capacity.

Westshore's \$270 million capital project remains on time and on budget. It will see the new consolidated office and maintenance shops, employee facilities and warehouse building completed in Q3 2015, a replacement shiploader at Berth 1 and one new stacker reclaimer in 2016 and the other two new stacker reclaimers, in each of 2017 and 2018, with total project completion anticipated by the first half of 2019.

Based on current information from Westshore's customers and based on agreements currently in place, 2015 throughput volumes are currently anticipated to be 31-32 million tonnes at rates higher than 2014 as a whole. 2015 volumes are anticipated to be in line with 2014 volumes as Westshore is anticipating conducting material maintenance to one of its dumpers and Berth 1 which will reduce overall productivity in 2015.

Westshore has entered into an agreement with Riversdale Resources Limited, a Canadian company with a planned metallurgical (steel making) coal mine to be developed in Blairmore, Alberta. Under the terms of the agreement, Riversdale will pay Westshore an annual reservation fee to hold up to 2 million tonnes of capacity at Westshore. Production is slated to start in late 2018 and ramping up in 2019. The agreement with Riversdale also includes a 10 year throughput agreement for such volumes ending in 2028.

The foregoing statements concerning anticipated throughput volumes, capital project and new customer agreement are forward-looking statements that reflect the current expectations of the Corporation with respect to future events and performance. Forward-looking statements should not be read as guarantees of future performance or results, and will not necessarily be accurate indications of whether such performance or results will be achieved.

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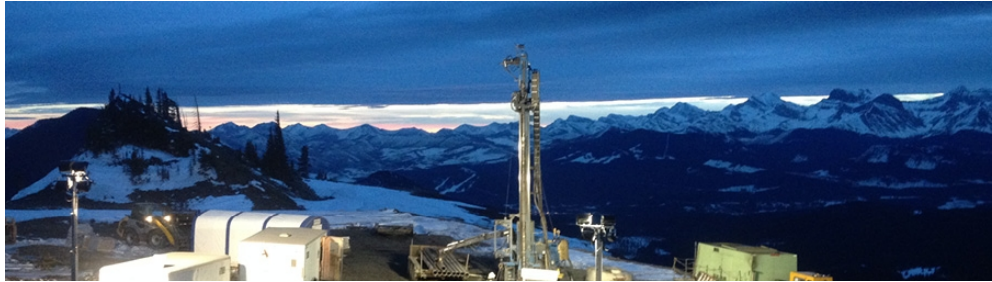
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RIVERSDALE RESOURCES



Coal Exploration and Development Company

The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass in southwestern Alberta has not been host to a working coal mine for more than 55 years, but a junior mining company from Sydney, Australia has comprehensive plans to change all that by revitalizing the once prominent and vibrant industry in the region for decades to come.

In August, 2013, Riversdale Resources purchased properties in Crowsnest Pass, including the Grassy Mountain property north of Blairmore, a town of about 3,000 people, from the previous owners Devon and Consol Energy for US\$49.5 million. Since then, Riversdale Resources Managing Director Steve Mallyon and his team have worked tirelessly in advancing the project.

The Canadian Business Journal spoke with Mallyon and Chief Financial Officer Anthony Martin, who both spend the bulk of their time currently working out of the Vancouver office, although each is out in Calgary on a regular basis keeping a close eye on the development of what stands to be a very successful business venture.

“It’s just an hour flight to Calgary then a two-hour drive down to the site,” Mallyon says of the commute from the Vancouver office to Crowsnest Pass.

Setting Up in Canada

Riversdale Resources previously had tremendous success in South Africa and Mozambique with still another potentially strong venture in Alaska known as Chickaloon. The corporate plan after being in Africa for almost a decade was to return to Australia and seek out new opportunities, but the Canadian option quickly moved to the top of the list. The abundant supply of coking coal would primarily be shipped to Asia for steel-making although other international destinations could also be serviced, including countries in South America such as Brazil.

“After conducting our studies it looked to be a very attractive project based on what we had learned and then we looked at a number of methodologies on how to finance it, including an IPO but in the end we relied upon two of our long-term supporters Macquarie Bank and Resource Capital Funds,” Mallyon says. “As of today the structure hasn’t changed – we’re a public company within the Australian corporation’s law terminology but we’re an unlisted public company.”

The resource is increasing in size – and to some extent in quality – and the executives from Riversdale are seeing the real potential of Grassy starting to emerge. Mallyon and his team conducted extensive due diligence including their own study and had the advantage of understanding of what was there, which did help in the decision to spend all that money.

The land mass at Crowsnest Pass is enormous, as one would imagine, including about 14,000 hectares of mineral lease and 1,400 hectares of surface land title. The mine will include an electrical power system, haul roads, a coal conveyor system, a coal preparation plant, a rail load-out, maintenance shops, a laboratory and other necessary facilities.

“One of the attractive parts of the portfolio, particularly with respect to Grassy Mountain, is it makes permitting easier and removes the issues some projects have in other parts of the world with landholders and other people owning the freehold rights vs. the mineral rights,” notes Martin.

At Riversdale, there is a distinct motto that ‘experience pays’. Thanks to some very large international mining experiences, the team is well prepared to take on the next big opportunity here in Canada.

“We’d been involved in a very challenging project in Africa where we had a very high ash coal, requiring careful washing to become a very successful hard coking coal operation which is operating to this day,” Mallyon says. “As a result of that experience, when we looked at the initial coal quality data for Grassy Mountain we did notice historical mining had largely been small underground development using very small equipment and really nibbling at the fringes of the Grassy Mountain area.”

Historical processing of the coal amounted to a single stage screen, size and wash to produce semi-soft type product that had been sold as thermal coal for power generation.

“When we looked at the composition of the coal we felt there was real merit if we could wash it and blend it in such a way we could produce a very good coking coal. It was all very good in theory but it was only within the last 12 months that we really started to prove that theory,” Mallyon continues.

Community Support

Other factors that gave Riversdale confidence in moving forward with the project included a local community that was very supportive of coal mining due to a long historic connection with

the industry. Many people in the area still work in the industry, but must commute to other municipalities in Alberta or to the eastern part of British Columbia. The logistical infrastructure at Crowsnest Pass also looks world-class to Mallyon and his team thanks to the convenient access to the CP rail line. The project site is just 2km from the rail line and enables the coal to be transported west to Vancouver or up to the Ridley Terminals, a port further north in Prince Rupert, B.C.

A large project such as this has the ability to create a number of good, high-paying jobs, including construction jobs in the early going and then jobs for workers mining the pit for the lifespan of the project. It's expected there will be about 1,000 people employed for the 18-month construction period. At Grassy the plan by Riversdale is to have as few people as possible onsite, more for safety reasons than anything else.

"We're looking at about 200 people who would be employed full-time at the mine but supporting the 200 are of course numerous contractors," Mallyon estimates. "Based on past experience, for every person we employ on the site there are about seven people employed via sub contractors supporting the site staff."

With each international project undertaken, Mallyon and Riversdale have always made a conscious effort to employ local citizens from the region whenever and wherever possible and they are certain there will be a large enough pool of eager young people looking to work with them. Grassy Mountain is by far the most advanced project at Crowsnest Pass in large part because there had been a previous amount of work had been facilitated there.

"The thing we picked up with Grassy – which is probably the biggest challenge for a junior mining company – is that it had been well drilled; there had been 364 bore holes and about 46,000

metres of drilling,” Mallyon offers. “To bring our project into even pre-feasibility studies you need a very solid resource base and it needs to be well drilled.”

Because Grassy Mountain had its predecessor companies take on a number of feasibility studies, it saved Riversdale Resources from having to spend another five years trying to do the same required work. When drilling started in November 2013, Mallyon and his team were able to simply clear off some of the old drill pads, refurbished the drill roads and they were off and running very quickly.

A final feasibility study is being conducted for Grassy Mountain, which at this point is about 50% complete, including a technical review, coal quality and processing is expected to be wrapped up by late March, 2015. The environmental study, because it encompasses a four-season study, is due for completion by July, 2015.

“The project has moved fairly quickly,” Mallyon confirms. “We’ve had the advantage of all the previous work that had been completed by Consol and Devon (the previous owners) to a very high quality in our view.”

The open pit dimensions are roughly 6.5km in length and about 2km wide. At Grassy Mountain, Riversdale was able to utilize a huge drill database of 364 holes, as well as previous work on coal quality, mine planning and full pit optimization.

“It’s become quite a significant project even by our experience last time, in which we had quite a large project in Mozambique but this one is proving to be not far off in terms of its operating dimensions,” Mallyon remarks.

Timelines

Mallyon is hesitant to offer a specific date as to when he'd like to see the mining site up and operational. He feels the danger for most companies in setting dates is that they do depend on a government to approve permitting and while no major obstacles are foreseen, it's likely that there will be people who are concerned about the redevelopment of the Crowsnest Pass mining centre and that will impact the timing for permitting and getting the project into operation.

"On our timeline, with development and permitting and putting infrastructure together to get the coal on the rail we're looking at a late 2018 startup," he predicts. "That to us is a realistic timeline but our approach in terms of permitting is that Canada is no less onerous or diligent than what we would find with the permitting authorities back in Australia."

Riversdale is cognizant of all the issues that must be dealt with including the public consultation review process, which will enable locals and non-locals to review that EIS (environmental impact study) and provide the company with their feedback – good and bad.

The expectations of Riversdale is to kick off the project with the mine producing 2 million tonnes of coal per year with a ramp up throughout the course of late 2018 through to the end of 2019. The first full year of production will likely be 2020 and Riversdale recently secured its first 2 million tonnes of port capacity under a 10 year arrangement with Westshore Terminals located south of Vancouver.

"The project resource base has grown significantly," Mallyon adds. "The feasibility study is looking at an expansion within a few years time to 4 million tonnes per annum, which to us is pretty much where the steady state for the project should exist, probably four years after initial startup."

There are still a number of areas on the Grassy lease where Riversdale hasn't yet drilled, nor had the predecessor owners. The target is at least a 25-year life at 4 million tonnes per annum, although Mallyon openly believes the life will perhaps grow to 30 years or more. Martin says Grassy Mountain's capital costs, as well as its operating costs, are brought down significantly by its low strip ratio.

"I agree with Steve in that Grassy will likely grow to 30 years or beyond," Martin adds. "By then we'll have a lot more data on those other three projects which will keep us active in that area for a longer period of time than that."

Along with the Grassy Mountain Project, which comprises a hard coking coal development opportunity, there are also three metallurgical coal exploration opportunities, consisting of the Bellevue, Adanac and Lynx Creek properties. Riversdale has done some exploration work this year on all three of the properties.

"The hard choice for us is what would come immediately after Grassy because both Adanac and Lynx look to us to have the same coal," Mallyon replies. "What we're hoping to do as we get the feasibility study under control over the coming summer is we'd like to do a first drilling on those properties. Adanac has had mining before - there was a strip mine nearby so we'll get our geologists to go out and do some mapping."

"In addition we know Bellevue has coal on it coming to surface so we know those three properties have coal similar to what we're finding on Grassy," Martin interjects. "Bellevue is not far from Grassy on the same side of both the towns of Blairmore and Coleman. We may be able to use some of the same infrastructure developed initially for Grassy to establish a satellite opportunity within the Bellevue leases."

The attractive characteristic of the coking coal world for Riversdale is that it's essentially where most of the Teck brands are selling their premium hard coking coal, which is company's primary target. Both Mallyon and Martin make it clear they are not producers of thermal coal. They see that as a very different market to metallurgical coal. They are likely to produce a small amount of secondary product but it will be a semi-hard product or a pulverized coal injection (PCI) product.

"Historically there probably was some view that Grassy would produce a coking coal and some thermal coal," Martin adds. "The last 12 months have included a lot of work on the coal quality and there is no thermal coal going to be produced whatsoever."

These are costly ventures. It brings up the possible option of joint ventures or going it alone. From personal experience, Mallyon says it's better to have one captain of the ship in order to get the project done on time and on budget.

"We're not averse to bringing partners in but they're probably more in the line of people who are likely to take our coal, such as the steel makers or a specialist investor that wants direct exposure to the project," Mallyon offers. "At this point we find it much more efficient going through feasibility study into development to own it 100%."

Primary Purchasers

The main buyer of the coal is anticipated to be primarily in the Asian steel-making industry. It's several of the larger countries on that continent, which bodes well for Riversdale as the company has developed excellent working relationships with some influential steel makers in Japan in particular. They are known as being very demanding clients in the hard coking coal sector but they also carry a reputation of being the most loyal to those who

treat them right. Excellent relationships have also been cultivated with South Korea and China. At various points, Riversdale has considered Chinese partners coming into the company's African projects.

This particular coal suits not only the north Asian market but it also is very attractive as a mid-vol coking coal to the steel makers in South America and in particular Argentina and Brazil where there are four steel makers. Mallyon and Martin know at least two of them who would be receptive to this type of product.

"With the widening of the Panama Canal we think eventually there will be some scope for us to move product efficiently into the Brazilian market," Martin says.

As previously noted, after being in Africa for almost a decade it was the original plan for Riversdale Resources to return to Australia and develop projects in the homeland, but the Canadian coals looked to be fantastic quality.

"The real challenge for us was getting over the massive rail distance," Mallyon says. "It wasn't until we sat down with CN and CP and understood just how competitive Canadian rail and ports are compared to our home country. It was a no-brainer to come here and then Grassy came along, so it was the perfect combination."

There is no doubt Crowsnest Pass is the crown jewel for Riversdale Resources, but the Chickaloon project in Alaska is another potential large-scale North American venture.

"With Grassy we acquired a non-project, a massive number of drill holes – 45,000 metres of drilling and feasibility studies, Mallyon says. "But with Chickaloon we acquired an exciting project that had been partly drilled in the 1920s by the U.S. Navy looking for a fuel

source and then abandoned for the next 60 years until a couple of groups including some steel makers tested the coal. We found a potential source of hard coking coal but looking at that project it's on about a seven-year development cycle. At the moment we're focused our financing efforts on Grassy."

Rather than have the project sitting there for too long we have looked at joint venturing that project but then it comes down to the issue of finding the right partner. Chickaloon may get a closer look but not until after the feasibility study is wrapped up here in Canada for Crowsnest Pass where there stands to be a long and prosperous future for Riversdale Resources.

"I'm sure there are other fantastic opportunities but we've found what we've been targeting for some time in Canada. It has all the elements we require to get a world-class competitive coking coal project into production," Mallyon states.

Over the next three years Riversdale is hoping to have feasibility studies done on at least one or maybe two of the other projects but also be confident in the expansion of up to 4 million tonnes per year. But to run as a one-mine company is extremely high risk, which is why Mallyon and his team always want to look towards responsible expansion.

"We're a small team but we like to keep busy," Martin says. "There's a lot of permitting and financing to do over the next few years. There will be a time when Steve and I will have to focus more on the corporate side of the business because we are talking circa \$350-400 million. We'll push very hard to become a multi-mine unit within the next five to 10 years. It gives you a whole lot of strengths not available to the single mine operation."

Seeing the company grow and become more successful is of course also integral to Riverdale's shareholders, who want to also

see a return on the money that has been invested from as far back as three years ago. Mallyon and Martin have the utmost confidence that Crowsnest Pass is just the beginning of a very successful journey.

www.rivresources.com

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Aussie style party raises funds

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

Australian rules festivities at the M.D. McEachern Community Centre in Bellevue raised almost \$12,000 for charity.

Riversdale Resources held its second Australia Day celebration on Jan. 24 to raise funds for Elise Kwan, a local teen with a heart condition, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Crowsnest Pass. About 200 people attended the event.

"We're delighted to be able to organize an event like this," said Steve Malloy, managing director of Australian-based Riversdale Resources. "We're supporting two good causes and if you look around here tonight you'll see the response has been overwhelming."

The evening featured live entertainment by The

Chevelles, who played plenty of AC/DC, a catered meal by Country Encounters and a live auction, which was presided over by local resident Lowry Toombs. One of the auctioned items included a didgeridoo.

Australia Day is the official national day of Australia.

Celebrated annually on January 26, it marks the anniversary of the 1788 arrival of the First Fleet of British Ships at Port Jackson, New South Wales, and the raising of the Flag of Great Britain at that site by Governor Arthur Phillip.

Several facts about Australia:

- Australia was the second country in the world to allow women to vote (New Zealand was first).
- Australia is home to the longest fence in the



Ezra Black photo

Madison Murray enjoying Australia Day festivities at the MDM Centre.

world. It is 5,614 kilometres long, and was originally built to keep dingoes away from fertile land.

- The Great Barrier Reef off Australia's east coast is the world's largest living structure.
- Chinese explorers travelled to Australia long before Europeans arrived.

As early as the 1400s, sailors and fisherman came to Australia for sea-cucumbers and to trade with the indigenous population.

- If all the sails of the Sydney Opera House roof were combined, they would create a perfect sphere. The architect was inspired while eating an orange.

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Pincher Creek homes are noticeably cheaper than similar properties in the Crowsnest Pass. What's more, even accounting for population disparity, Crowsnest sees much more real estate activity than our neighbours to the east. It is only minutes to the east, so why the big difference?

The answer is simple. It is the economics of supply and demand. Even if on first blush, Pincher appears more economically robust than Crowsnest Pass, their housing is in much less demand than what we experience here. Also, like any small prairie town, it is surrounded by an abundance of flat and easily serviceable land. This is not the case here.

Our valley is narrow and long and we live mostly along its bottom from one end to the other. The servicing cost for land in the mountains is extremely high and our stock of land for future development is very limited. We have to be very careful how we manage the little land we have in order to remain a welcoming and sustainable community.

What draws people here, and keeps them here, are the magnificent mountain surroundings. This place is breathtaking. We are extremely lucky to live in our mountain valley and we are good stewards of our home.

This is why our real estate is in higher demand than in Pincher Creek. The mountains are a magnet for people who dream to live near them. The second reason is Teck Coal. Teck is now mining record volumes of some of the best metallurgical coal in the world, right next door in the Elk Valley. Much can be said about the diversity of our local population but one thing is for sure, we are all passionate about where we live and we love our home.

We are very welcoming. But please, try to get one thing straight - we are not backward and we are definitely not anti-development.

A lot of us here drive a good distance to work, especially the miners. When we get home, we do not want to look at a job site. This notion we share with many other Albertans.

Take Fort McMurray. Not too long ago, this northern city faced a prospect of heavy oil extraction right next to its urban area. Much of the land surrounding Fort Mac is held, in lease, by various oil companies and a few of them wanted to start extracting oil right within sight of the community. There was a tremendous outcry against this and, as a result, land within Fort McMurray's urban area is no longer available for heavy oil extraction. Does this mean the residents of Fort McMurray are against development? No one is suggesting such nonsense.

Another example, closer to home in Lethbridge, involves a conventional oil and gas drilling proposal. An oil company held mineral rights on private land in West Lethbridge and wanted to drill a few wells in what the city would consider its future urban area.

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Alberta Oil Land Planni
ng

In Alberta, municipalities and cities do not have jurisdiction over mineral rights. These rights are controlled by the province.

Nonetheless, Lethbridge expressed itself very clearly when "City Council formally stated its opposition to urban oil and gas drilling via an official resolution it passed on November 13, 2012." It took two more years for the oil company to announce, on the 30 of April 2014, that it had finally abandoned its idea of drilling there. Did anyone come out and say Lethbridge was antidevelopment because of this? No, and that is because even in oil rich Alberta, few want a drilling rig within sight of their home.

This brings us back to Crowsnest Pass. Not very long ago our municipal council passed a motion to not support an industrial coal load-out facility in the middle of our community.

A mining company proposed to place an ultramodern, multi-million ton, bulk coal train load-out, right in the middle of Crowsnest Pass. The proposed location was between Coleman and Blairmore, just west of the hospital. We were told at the open house that this facility would be serviced via conveyor belt, and that the whole set-up would be dustless.

Never mind what we know about coal, one can suspend one's imagination and concede that millions of tons of crushed coal can be quickly loaded on a train without creating any dust. There is absolutely no point to argue this with anyone who believes this can be done at all times and without any "incident." Maybe it can be done, but this is not the point of objecting to this load-out in the middle of our town.

Most of us in this town are obviously not against coal mining. In the old days, before anyone drove cars or hopped on a bus, people walked to work, and it made sense to live next to a mine or a loading facility. It saved a lot of time and allowed people the time to do other things. Old mining towns grew up around mining and loading facilities out of necessity, not because anyone liked such an arrangement.

But in this day and age we have many choices as to where we want to live. For many years, I stood on a corner in Fort McMurray to catch a bus to work. Never, during that time, did I or anyone I knew say, "Boy would it be great to live next to the gate of the mine so we could all save time not travelling on a bus."

We value coal mining and the jobs and security it provides. But home is home and we all have to respect that. We know what we like and why we are here. And just because we don't want an industrial load-out facility right in the middle of town, doesn't mean we are against development. It just means we respect and value the place we call home.

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Riversdale pitches Grassy Mountain coal to Asian steelmakers

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EZRA BLACK Pass Herald Reporter

Riversdale Resources is already marketing Grassy Mountain coal to Asian steelmakers said managing director Steve Mallyon during the Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce's monthly meeting at Country Encounters on April 8.

"There are about 13 steelmakers that we've been talking to at the moment and the response has been positive to date," said Mallyon.

Samples collected from over 430 bore holes, many of them drilled before Riversdale acquired the property, show that Grassy Mountain contains quality steelmaking coal.

"There's the potential to produce an export product that usually goes to the steelmakers in Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan," said Mallyon. "Very little would get to Europe but some would get to Brazil."

A nine tonne sample sent for quality testing in Canadian, American and Australian laboratories contained no thermal coal, soft coals or other coal byproducts; just hard coking coal.

"Grassy is considered a premium hard coking coal. Similar to what some people see in Teck's operations in the Elk River Valley," said Mallyon.

The company hopes to take another large bulk sample and send it to steelmakers, he said.

In January, the company entered into a 10-year agreement with Westshore Terminals, located at Roberts Bank 35 kilometres south of Vancouver, that will enable the mine's first ten million tonnes of product to be shipped to steelmakers in Asia.

Mallyon said the feasibility study is about 60 per cent complete and could be finalized in August before being sent to federal and provincial regulators. Riversdale is still conducting an environmental impact study, which was begun in July of 2013 and requires a four-season study over

several years.

The Sydney based company has spent over \$50 million acquiring coal properties in Crowsnest Pass, including the Grassy Mountain, which Riversdale estimates would produce two to four million tonnes of coal a year over 28 years. At four million tonnes, the mine would employ about 400 people not including subcontractors and support staff, said Mallyon.

Pending regulatory approval, construction on the project could begin in 2017 with the mine becoming operational in 2018.

"Riversdale objectives is to develop a very long lived project that will ride out the inevitable ups and downs of the coal market," said Mallyon. "At the moment it's at a low point."

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According to Bloomberg Business, the benchmark price for steelmaking coal fell to a six-year low after Australian coal producers and Japanese steel mills agreed to a price of \$109.50 per tonne starting April 1, which is down from \$117 in the first quarter.

Metallurgical coal has fallen from a high of \$330 per tonne four years ago because of slowing growth and a global glut.

Riversdale will be holding an open house on April 22 at Elks Hall in Blairmore from 2 to 8:30 pm to discuss their exploration results, financial impacts and rail load out options. Refreshments will be provided.

Last October, Riversdale revealed rail load out options for the Grassy Mountain project. All three options involved a conveyor belt transporting coal to a load out facility on secondary tracks along the railroad near Highway 3.

Two of the options would mean laying a looped track through about nine holes of the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club. The clubhouse could also be affected.

Council passed a motion opposing the proposed rail load out options after an in-camera session of council on Oct. 7 over concerns associated with locating mining infrastructure near the community.

"We're very conscious of the community issues related to noise, dust and visual impact and we've got some ideas of what we'd like to achieve but we're also seeking ideas," said Mallyon.

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Ezra Black Photo

Riversdale geologist Darren Lefort answers questions during Wednesday's open house at the Elks Hall in Blairmore.

EZRA BLACK Pass Herald Reporter

On April 22, Riversdale Resources executives were in the hot seat as they took questions about they Grassy Mountain Coal Project in front of a capacity crowd in Elks Hall.

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Chief financial officer Anthony Martin and managing director Steve Mallyon shared information on exploration results, rail load out proposals and financial impacts.

Refreshments were served but scathing comments from locals had both executives looking dry as a drover's dog as some questioners looked about ready to chuck a wobbly, which is Australian speak for get angry.

Local resident John Redekopp asked why Riversdale hadn't put together an information package for stakeholders.

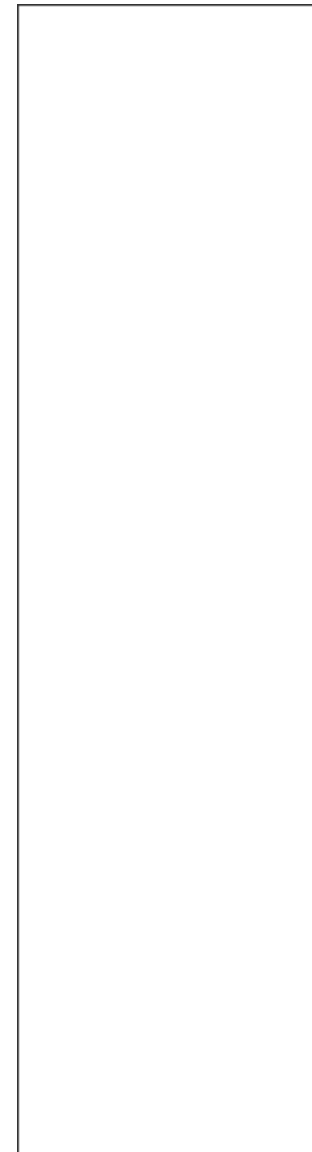
"All this great information, why can't you put it on your website so that everyone who couldn't attend this meeting can actually process it and look at it," said Redekopp. "Your website's got no information at all."

"We like to interact with the community directly," replied Mallyon. "I'm not of the generation that started out using the internet and websites so I apologize for being a dinosaur."

Another resident asked what council would think about the proposed load outs. Council passed a motion opposing the proposed rail load out options after an in-camera session of council on Oct. 7 over concerns associated with building mining infrastructure near the community.

The new load out options presented Wednesday are practically unchanged from the ones proposed in October.

continued below...





"I don't see that and I'm not sure council would see that either," responded Mallyon. "There is a federal and provincial process and one big part of that is direct community engagement."

Dave Savage representing a group whose property abuts the mine permit area raised concerns about accessing their lands.

"Eight different families are directly and immediately affected by this application because their properties are on Grassy Mountain," said Savage. "We put in letters of objection to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA). These people who are right next door to the mine area have to have a voice."

Local realtor John Pundyk explained that Riversdale was dealing with an informed audience.

"We are a mining town. Most of us here earn our living from coal whether we work directly in coal or indirectly supporting those who do but that's not an excuse to take us for granted," said Pundyk. "Because we are a mining town your job is harder because you're looking at people who work with coal and understand coal."

Residents had other concerns including how the load out would affect the local trail network and how the system would perform in a challenging climate but many people expressed their support for Riversdale.

"As a resident of the Crowsnest Pass, starting in 1980 I've seen this place

die," said Bob Price. "Starting with Colman Collieries, the sawmill, the gas plant, everything is shut down. To me this is a glimmer of hope for this community, a chance to get a tax base. I'd say a very large majority in this community support this project."

"I think you guys can do a responsible job and I welcome you in this community."

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April 29th ~ Vol. 85 No. 17

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Muswellbrook, New South Wales, Australia; a town near a coal mine

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Muswellbrook, New South Wales, Australia

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

STORY IDEA, COMMENT, OR NEWS TIP?

Riversdale Resources executives were touting the Bengalla Mine in New South Wales, Australia as a successful example of a coal mine built near a community as they presented rail load out options for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project at an open house on April 22.

Riversdale's managing director Steve Mallyon said the Bengala Mine load out is about 1.5 kilometres from Muswellbrook, a town of about 11,000 that is well known for coal mining and horse breeding.

Google Maps shows that its rail load out facility is built on the far side of the mine, away from Muswellbrook.

Bengalla is one of eight massive coal mines that surround the town. It is an open cut mine that went into production in 1998. It employs about 400 full-time employees and produces about 8 million tonnes of thermal coal per year.

This March, the New South Wales government and its federal counterpart approved its expansion to 15 million tonnes of coal per year.

For ten days in February, Riversdale Resources' vice president of technical services David Leslie visited three different Australian mines, including Bengalla, to study their load out facilities. Leslie said Riversdale would be factoring in the Australian designs for the Grassy Mountain mine to mitigate noise, coal dust and unsightliness. To control coal dust, all the Australian mines use grates below the loading area so coal can be collected before it ends up on the tracks where it can dry out and start blowing around, he said.

"We think we can be successful in making sure that dust is minimized greatly," said Leslie.

To minimize the visual impact, the load out facility would be built as compact as possible and painted colours that blend into the surroundings. The Australian load outs are concealed by berms and planted trees. Tunnels on either side of the load out structure are be used for sound mitigation.

Leslie did not say which of these strategies could be used for Grassy Mountain.

continued below ...





“As we pin the load out position, we can do noise modeling and see if there are any locations that may be impacted and then we can look at them specifically,” he said.

Tom Meakin, a founding member of Sedgman, the company that built the Bengalla Mine load out structure, said Grassy Mountain would use unconventional processes that would reduce the amount of dust.

“What we’re doing here and what’s different is we’re not drying the coal,” he said.

“Our tailings are all contained on the site. We use tailings filter presses to dewater the tailings into filter cake and then its combined with the coarse filter reject and taken back into the site.”

Mallyon added that Sedgman has improved the design of its load out structures in the 17 years since Bengalla’s was commissioned.

“We felt it important to deliver a live case study given the location of the rail loader is a significant issue with the community,” said Mallyon.

Proposed rail load outs revised

Riversdale has whittled down its proposed load out options for the Grassy Mountain project from three to two.

The two options are a figure eight near the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club and a siding through the valley bottom between Coleman and Blairmore. Barring technical problems, the trains would take about seven hours to load.

Public reaction to the load out options was mixed.

Speaking at Wednesday’s open house, local resident Doug Manzer asked whether the proposed load out options were the best options or just the cheapest.

“You’re trying to build one of the lowest cost producers in the world,” said Manzer. “To me that is a tradeoff for some of the things I would rather see go into an operation like this.”

Mallyon replied that the company had been considering a total of ten load out options but Riversdale but settled on these two for a number of environmental and social factors.

“It’s not just the cost,” he said, “These alternatives have huge advantages over the other eight.”

One of the discarded options placed the load out structure near the Frank Industrial Park. Mallyon said that option was cost prohibitive because it would mean putting a conveyor belt around Bluff Mountain.

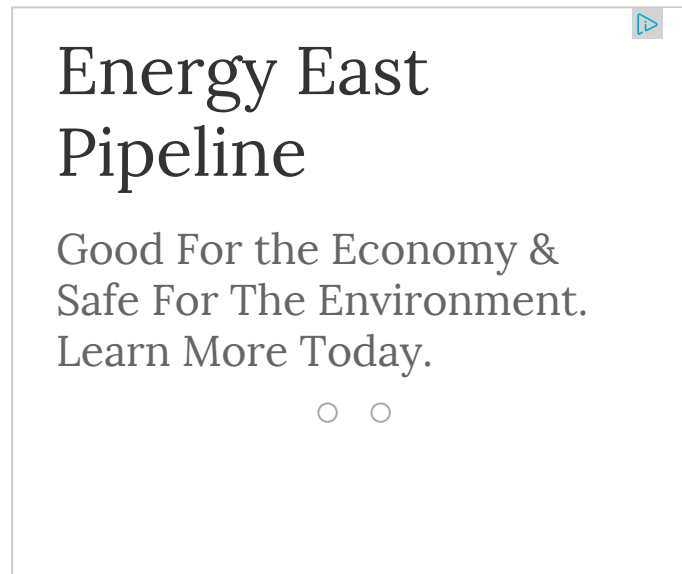
Another option had a rail spur going straight from the main line to the mine site. However, that option does not take into account the mountainous topography of the area.

In a report on global coal producers, Anthony Martin, Riversdale’s chief financial officer, said the long-term forecast for metallurgical coal is around \$150 US per tonne.

About 25 per cent of global producers are not making any money at its current price of around \$100 US per tonne.

“Everyone is making less money in the industry than they were a few years ago,” said Martin. “We need to make sure we’re one of the lowest cost producers of our product.”

continued below ...



They're bringing jobs

Martin also presented data from a social impact assessment on the impact the Grassy Mountain project will have on the Crowsnest Pass.

Building the mine is expected to take two to three years. A thousand people would be hired for the job. Martin envisions a camp style arrangement to accommodate the influx of workers.

The mine would create about 400 fulltime jobs, the majority of which will be taken up by 25 to 40 year olds. About 50 per cent are expected to live in the Pass. They are expected to spend from \$40 to \$50 million per year.

"It will lead to a lot of new younger families coming in and settling in the community, which from our point of view is a big positive," said Martin.

It will cost \$220 million per year to operate the mine. Employee related taxes are expected to total \$9.6 million per year. Contractors are expected to generate additional tax revenue for the municipality.

The mine is expected to have substantial indirect affects on the community by generating the need for support industries and contractors.

Mining company, golf course, tee off over holes

Hatch Mott MacDonald rail consultant James Whithers said the valley bottom option would involve an overland conveyor belt that would feed coal to the load out structure from the mine site. The conveyor belt would run parallel to the rail corridor and then underneath the highway. This option would not affect the golf course.

The second option would cost the golf course nine of its 18 holes and possibly the

clubhouse. Mallyon said they've been in talks with Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club and have plans to replace the lost holes.

"Our plan would be to replace those holes with additional new ones and a redevelopment of the golf course and clubhouse," said Mallyon.

Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club Board member Rick Breakenridge said his organization been in negotiations with Riversdale for over a year.

"It's a big change for our golf course and for our community," said Breakenridge.

"However that change is being managed. Riversdale approached us a year ago. We've been working with them ever since. At this point we formed a structure to work with them in the future about maintaining course operation... We don't know what option we're going forward with yet but working with Riversdale to date has been very positive."

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Riversdale comments on Open House

STEVE MALLYON
Managing Director

On behalf of Riversdale I wanted to express our appreciation for the large turnout during our recent Open House at the Elks Hall. Over 230 people attended the event with an estimated 180 people staying through to the formal company presentation during the evening. Riversdale were able to gather useful feedback from a significant number of exit interviews completed by attendees during the afternoon and evening sessions. The feedback added to the ongoing community engagement initiated by Riversdale's Blairmore team since our office was established on 20th Avenue in 2013.

The Open House has identified to our team that additional information should be made available on our website and in future Open House sessions. On that matter there was a strong preference for more Open House sessions throughout the year. In addition we received contact details for many additional people to be added to our email distribution list. To date Riversdale has submitted a Project Description and a Project Terms of Reference to Provincial and Federal Regulators as part of their process to determine if there is a requirement for Grassy Mountain to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Riversdale is of the opinion that an EIA will be required and as such is well advanced on the study after commencing it in 2013. The resultant study will be subject to a public consultation process so it is likely that future Open House sessions will include detailed updates on EIA activities along with project, infrastructure and other issues.

The exit interviews also sought to identify people's views around a rail siding location. Of those respondents who support a major project development such as Grassy Mountain an overwhelming majority believe the rail loop within the lower portion of the golf course was a preferred location to that of the rail siding located in the Valley floor between Blairmore and Coleman As indicated at the Open House, Riversdale has been working with the Golf Club on a redesign of the course and facilities for some months and as a result of the feedback from the Open House, this work will now continue at an expedited rate.

Riversdale has always sought to be transparent in its activities in the Crowsnest Pass and we have appreciated the trust, support and friendship extended to our team. We look forward to working with the Community on the Grassy Mountain Project.



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We should hold a community referendum

Dear Editor,

It is no secret that we need employment in our area but at what cost? What is happening is that a foreign coal mining company is working in our community following their own agenda and are now proposing, instead of meeting with us as a community and asking us if we are in agreement with their proposal for a mining facility located within a few kilometers of our community. The word 'clean coal' has been promised as part of the proposal and I must say

that in all of my 75 years of living in a coal mining community I have never seen 'clean coal'. We have been told that Blairmore and Gold Creek are in a high impact area and this was not explained fully and I require more information regarding this because Blairmore is where I live and where I will continue to reside.

I drove along the old Greenhill mine road today and was amazed by the number of properties with locked gates and signs regarding the no trespassing situation of

the backcountry as it now exists. As a kid I rode my horse for miles on these backroads with no intervention from the existing mine facilities. Also I had access to hunting privileges and fishing and camping, all recreation activities which now appear to no longer exist.

Does Riverdale Resources have the right to reduce our quality of life which we have enjoyed forever, just for the sake of creating a new mine, extracting all of the coal resources and if this business is not successful

given the current cost of a ton of coal, leave us with a valley stripped of its natural environment, dry tailing piles, etc. all of which has to be reclaimed? Apparently, when this question was asked the reply was that there would be resources available for this reclamation. That remains to be seen.

It would be advisable for Riverdale Resources and this community to hold a referendum as soon as possible before the project goes any further.

Fred Milley



Pastor's Pen

LETTERS POLICY

Response to Riversdale's open letter to the public

Dear Editor,

Reading the current issue of the Herald and the article "Riversdale Comments..."gave me pause

In this article it is stated that "...of those respondents (of the survey/ Exit interview form) who SUPPORT a mayor Project development such as Grassy Mountain...the overwhelmingly majority believea preferred location for the load out...to be the Golf-course option."

In my opinion this is a very imaginative and suggestive slant on the survey they did, if not a clear misrepresentation based more specifically in how those exit interviews/ Forms were worded and counted.

To start, I do not recall there being a check box in that survey / exit interview asking if the person does support THIS project, a Coal Mine in the middle of our community, or not and as such it is impossible, and irresponsible, for Riversdale to even suggest that any of the attendees that came to the open house support their project at all, let alone any of their proposed load out options.

Using verbal ninjas smoke by suggesting that possible support for other, future projects of other categories, sizes, impacts and natures than a Coal Mine means one does support this project which is a Coal Mine, are very much uncalled for here.

Riversdale furthermore gave only two choices as to the load-out options in their survey, asking and suggesting if one had to choose which load-out option would one choose....The rail load-out or the golf course load-

out, there is an old known marketing and survey fact that came into play, namely that 68% of people, when having to make a choice between two evils in a survey will simply choose what they perceive to be the lesser evil and then quickly move on to the next question.

They do so without considering or even realizing that in actuality this is merely a questionnaire, a simple piece of paper, and not real life and as such they have not only two but a multitude of other options and choices at hand, meaning they do not HAVE TO choose either or in fact any evil at all,

If Riversdale would have been interested in the truth and the feelings of our community or just even a factual survey, they would have had to add a third option, namely another, third, checkbox for the participants to check to state that they "do not support either option" for this Projects Load-outs, besides, if they wanted to poll support, asking clearly if they support THIS Project , and adding a "do you have additional comments line"

All of this wouldn't bother me too much, slants and or "opinions" on facts are given all the time in the news, by politicians , however now Riversdale in their article are seemingly turning around and taking the participants of this survey and calling them "supporters of their Project" by insinuating that since they participated in it and they did choose one of the two given options / Evils for the load outs of this Project that must mean not only are they in overall favor of this Coal Mine but,

skewed or not, for the record they made their preference and here read Riversdale fairydusted legalese for "support" of the project and of the load out location of their choice clearly known by doing so.

This is highly suggestive and to the public outside of our community could state that there is widespread support in this community to loosing part of our golf course as well as support for a severely noisy and dirty load out upwind and above our main Town where noise pollution would be at its highest impact, naturally traveling across the valley unhindered, did I mention UPWIND ?

Let's be clear here, we as a community through our council and our combined voices have a lot of options and not just the few that we keep being presented with over and over again by Riversdale, the facts that this mine is going to happen no matter what and the facts that there are only two locations for load out facilities to go, "so pick one " , are not actual facts at all. We have a lot of options, one of which being for us not to allow this company to do any of the things they try so hard to convince us are already facts of life. We do not have to choose, we can simply say no thank you to any and all of it and let our voices be heard at our council and the provincial agencies that may, or, wait for it... may NOT approve this depending on its perceived or recorded support or lack thereof, ...so lets not forget that little, actual fact.

What is now becoming important is, is this so

called survey, or more specifically the numbers of suggested support it produced, albeit that being according to Riversdale alone , going to be used locally or in the dealings with the federal and provincial agencies throughout the approval process for this Coal mine? Giving Riversdale the option of stating or even just suggesting unchallenged at the next council hearing that (liberally add fairydust) a large percentage of the community, sorry... meant to say survey participants (but forgot to do so) prefers the golf course load out ...?

Faux pas or not, I and people I have talked to feel things have progressed, there are now factual numbers out there that do, according to Riversdale, or if you ask around in town more likely do not represent the feelings in and of our community, that can and just might be used to achieve something that most people I talked to do not want to happen.

To get the actual numbers and have a real answer for our council and the provincial agencies that are part of the approval process for this Coal Mine and for ourselves to the questions the Grassy Mountain project and Riversdale are bringing to our community only a referendum or independent survey can answer if either or in fact any of Riversdale's Load-out options, let alone the project as a whole does or does not have our support, so I ask what's holding us back from holding one and thus having an accurate record of real and not the "suggested- fairydusted" Facts ?

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Will the Grassy Mountain Coal Project be good for the golf course?

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Riversdale Resources Mine Site - Grassy Mountain, Crowsnest pass

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

There are many great golf courses located near industrial developments, said Crowsnest Pass Golf & Country Club (CNPGCC) superintendent Waren Geitz. Often when looking for a place to build a course, industrial sites are the only

STORY IDEA,
COMMENT,
OR NEWS TIP?

properties available. In fact the U.S. Open was held at a course a few weeks ago with a busy rail-line running right beside the tee box, fairway and green.

Riversdale Resources is proposing to locate similar infrastructure in the form of a rail load out on the community golf course for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.

The proposed load out would be bordered by the 11th hole and would be about 18 meters below the fairway. Geitz said it would be, "Hidden by a row of trees, and most golfers wouldn't even know it's there," and would border about 150 yards of the 500 yard golf hole. It would load about five trains per week when and if the mine is producing four million tonnes per year.

Eager to submit their Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to provincial and federal regulators by the fall and mindful of public feedback, Riversdale Resources is dropping the proposal to build a load out facility for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project in the valley bottom between Blairmore and Coleman in favour of locating it on the CNPGCC.

Building the facility would be mean losing no more than nine holes and the clubhouse but Riversdale executives are promising to pay for and replace any lost infrastructure.

The CNPGCC only had nine holes until 1997 when another nine professionally designed holes were added. The older holes would be lost if the mining project goes ahead as proposed but Geitz said these holes have aged to the point where they require major renovations to bring them up to the standards of newer mountain courses.

"We have several greens that are almost unplayable because of extreme slopes and poor design. Our clubhouse is also showing its age, and needs replacing. Renovating these greens and fixing design issues, and repairing other aging features could easily run into work worth millions of dollars," said Geitz in an email interview. "In my view the offer from Riversdale, pending the development of their project to rebuild the impacted holes and clubhouse, is a windfall for the club, and an opportunity most clubs could only dream of."

continued below ...



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Keith Bott, Riversdale’s community liaison, said the company has reached a point where it has to decide where to locate the load before submitting an EIA by the end of September.

The Australian junior mining company presented their decision to council during in-camera sessions where company representatives went through the other load out locations considered for the project and shared data collected via questionnaire at an April 22 open house.

“From the feedback forms, most respondents felt the golf course option was the most appropriate,” said Bott. “There was much less support for the valley bottom. Many people completed objected to it. Their feeling is the valley bottom would have a larger impact on surrounding residences and Ironstone Lookout.”

Bott said Riversdale would need to propose a single location for the Grassy Mountain load out when it submits an EIA to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and its federal counterpart the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA).

In October 2014, council passed a motion opposing the then three proposed rail load out options, including the option of laying a looped track through the community golf course.

Councillor Shar Cartwright does not know how council will react to Riversdale’s newest proposal but she was against the possibility of Blairmore ending up with a wrecked landscape on both sides of Highway 3.

“Personally I have some concerns and as much as Riversdale would like to alleviate those concerns, we sure don’t want another River Run on our hands,” she said. “What happens if they start ripping up the golf course and something goes wrong? Or the markets aren’t there for them and they decide to pull out and we’re left with a torn up golf course?”

Riversdale’s chief financial officer Anthony Martin, said the CNPGCC would be pay for and replace any affected facilities if the load out is built on the course but stressed there are still a number of studies to be completed on the mining project before any decisions are made.

“Riversdale is in discussions with the board of the CNPGCC as to how those studies may proceed and how the relationship between us is governed,” said Martin in an email interview. “It is important that any arrangement, allows the club to continue to develop and strengthen its operations for the good of the community.”

continued below ...

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Rob Amato, CNPGCC President, said he wasn’t against Riversdale’s proposal but would want what was lost to be replaced.

“We’ve got a really good golf course, it’s in good shape and we can’t have the course go down to nine holes,” he said. “We’re one of the main draws of the Crowsnest Pass right now.”

Riversdale’s Vice President of Technical Services David Leslie said the company is

conducting and funding a feasibility study on the Grassy Mountain Project, which includes the rail load out and connection to the existing Canadian Pacific rail line.

The rail connection is being designed by Calgary based Hatch Mott MacDonald while the train load out and overland clean coal conveyor is being designed by Sedgman Canada in Vancouver. The capital costs of this part of the project will be finalized once the design work is completed as part of the feasibility study.

Leslie said the added benefits of the golf course compared to the valley bottom option include locating the coal loader and conveyor out of view of the community. Additionally, during loading, the train will be farther away from residential areas resulting in a lower noise level.

“While it is not the lowest cost of the two options, it is a feasible design,” said Leslie in an email interview. “In addition, Riversdale is in a fortunate position to own large parcels of land around the golf course.”

Before Riversdale bought it, the land the golf course is built on was owned by Devon Canada and CONSOL. The agreement between Devon, CONSOL and the CNPGCC contains two conditions, which specifically allow for using golf course land to transport coal.

According to one of the conditions, “The Grantor agrees that it will not oppose any future development applications by the Grantee for development of the coal reserves on the Grantee’s properties lying north of the Devon/CONSOL Lands.”

Since late 2013, Riversdale has considered 10 potential locations for the rail load out and track. Proposals included trucking the coal to the main line, building a conveyor belt under Highway 3 or locating a facility in the Frank Industrial Park and other sites further east.

Leslie said all but the golf course and valley bottom options were dropped because of rail grade requirements, environmental impact, social impact, private landholders, community, safety, engineering feasibility, reducing the need for coal storage, capital costs, ongoing operability and other factors.

“A rail load out is a key aspect of any bulk commodity project and given the length and topography of the Crowsnest Pass, as well as the requirements of Canadian Pacific Rail, it was always going to be a challenging aspect of the Grassy Mountain project,” said Leslie.

An in-camera meeting between council, Riversdale and executives from the CNPGCC has been scheduled for July 13 but in the meantime, Geitz said the club has already been in contact with golf course architect Gary Browning to develop an initial master plan. Browning’s previous projects include Stewart Creek in Canmore and Copper Point in Invermere B.C.

“This is a huge opportunity for our new and improved course to become a world class golf destination, and a major draw to the community of Crowsnest Pass,” said Geitz.

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Community Focus on the Matter of the Riversdale

Dear Editor:

We can all make mistakes, and do so, on a regular basis. The ability to step back, reassess and change direction is a necessary asset to living and leading in a community. A sure sign of good leadership is the desire to do the right thing and the humility to adjust one's attitude and stance when additional information becomes available or to actively seek new information. Changing one's stance sometimes requires looking at the bigger picture. A big picture can be seen when in a helicopter and looking down at the situation from the 3000 meter level. Once up there, away from the noise and clamor of the moment, one can develop clarity of thought and gain new resolve. I would like to present a three thousand meter view of the load-out options the community is faced with as identified by Riversdale. Before proceeding, I need to comment on my rationale for writing this letter.

I struggled with even approaching this load-out subject because of my participation on the Municipal Planning Commission. Weighing the pros and cons, I concluded that it is relatively easy to write articles on matters of low consequence. However, this is a substantial matter requiring significant reflective time and thought. I inherently feel that more 'community good' is possible than 'personal bad'; hence this letter. Hopefully this is helpful.

Now back to the helicopter and three thousand meter level:

The Golf Course Load-out Option:

The size of the actual footprint can be seen from this height. The cut and fill required at that lovely location on Highway Three where the golf course used to be is now obvious, an industrial atmosphere is visible on both sides of the

to passersby. River Run on one side and fill material with a train and load-out visible on the other. We trade perfect natural advertising for a sign. A sign now shows a lovely golf course located on the other side of an industrial load-out. Tourists are not impressed and drive by. The 'drop in' golf opportunity is lost. Half of Blairmore sees and hears the load-out activity every day.

The Coleman Load-out Option:

In the blink of an eye, we see another option. There is a load-out beside the tracks, some extra track, a building and a covered conveyor belt. Industrial activity is near the main rail line where it is expected to be and is zoned for. The footprint is less noticeable to the highway traffic. The conveyor belt goes subsurface in places to allow for wildlife crossings. Looking further in time, highly noticeable areas of the conveyor are now screened with natural planted vegetation. Some people see the load-out activity each day and students can observe primary industry, a driver of economics in Alberta.

Other Options:

It is not clear that there are other reasonable options at this point so a helicopter view is not possible.

Terrain dictates some matters in the Crowsnest Pass, for instance, railroad grades and accessibility. Is there a better natural location for a load out than in Coleman? It is debateable, perhaps yes, perhaps no. Has the public been presented with all possible options? The Coleman load-out is in a location identified for such activity (Non Urban Area 1 (NUA 1) Resource Processing activities, a discretionary use) and any new construction or purchase of homes in the vicinity should have been made with the realization of area zoning and industrial activity along the rail

cluding those in Coleman, land values will go up if the Riversdale mine comes to fruition. Regardless of the load-out location, the community will benefit and not at the cost of losing the recreation or tourist industry.

The Council and community focus on load-outs needs to change from what appears as a black and white "No" stance to a "Yes" and how well Riversdale can address our fears and concerns. A conversation moving along the lines of 'over the top' dust control management, (a modified load-out entry and exits designed to address extreme wind events, perhaps a building within a building, and the like), of visual screening (tall trees at the load-out, natural shrubbery along the conveyor at critical points), landscaping, wildlife passage, and building colour. Council can lead by demonstrating a change in focus and a willingness to go above and beyond with engineering and landscaping details that they have not considered or mentioned up to now.

Can our community, Mayor and Council move beyond a no/yes approach behind closed doors to a more open discussion on the matter of the Riversdale load-out? It seems to me that moving to a community dialogue is a necessary progressive step. The time of "in camera" sessions needs to be replaced with some open, disciplined discussion and debate. This could lessen the burden of a final decision on Mayor and Council and could result in a decision-making process that provides more defined benefits. For example, the Mayor, Council and a Citizens' Task Force could engage Riversdale with the aim of developing an Impact Benefits Agreement (IBA). Such an agreement would require more detailed discussion and a

process would also allow participants to assess the opportunity costs of one option over another. What is being lost if one option is chosen over another? As we have seen in the July 8th news article, the golf course leadership have no choice but to work with and support the development of new greens and a club house but what if the total cost of the golf course load-out option is 40 million more than a load-out placement along the railroad tracks in Coleman or another location? What part of that 40 million can be negotiated in favour of the Community for some other need? If the golf course and club house is being replaced (an expected requirement) what is the compensation to the community for losing the scenery along the highway and for many of the Blairmore residences having to watch the load-out process forever?

In closing I would like to reiterate the essential need for the identification and inclusion of a Citizens' Task Force to engage in a more open dialogue on the load-out options. Also, movement towards an Impact Benefits Agreement is a practical process required immediately to ensure the best deal for the citizens of the Crowsnest Pass and Riversdale.

Tim Juhlin

LETTERS POLICY

The Pass Herald welcomes Letters to the Editor that examine issues, but reserves the right to edit for length, libel and syntax. Writers must sign letters and include first and last names, address and telephone number. Address and telephone numbers will not be published. Only in exceptional cases will the Pass Herald withhold the name of the writer and in those cases the writer must disclose his/her name, address and telephone number to the Editor.

Letters to the Editor do not re-

Riversdale Resources Team Expands in the Pass

Riversdale has appointed Cal Clark as Manager Sustainable Development for its rapidly advancing Grassy Mountain coking coal project. Cal is an Alberta local and will be moving to the Crowsnest Pass with his wife Carmen and young family.

Cal holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology (University of Guelph), and a Master of Education degree (University of Calgary) and has a career spanning more than 25 years in forestry, mining and energy sectors. Most recently Cal was with Cenovus Energy developing environmental management strategies to address key issues and enhance environmental performance related to oil and gas operations. Cal will take responsibility at Riversdale for Environmental Management and Planning, Community Engagement and First Nations.

Steve Mallyon, Riversdale's Managing Director said "at the last open house we outlined our plans to bring highly skilled people and young families to the Pass, so Cal and Carmen are a great example of the team which will eventually develop Grassy into a long term sustainable and responsible development. Cal will also provide an additional technical resource for direct interaction with the Crowsnest Pass Community on important environmental and social issues".

Council delays transfer water license to Riversdale Resources

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

On July 21, council delayed the transfer of

the Gold Creek surface Water License to Riversdale Resources to give administration time to

acquire enough background information on the process to make a recommendation to council.

Riversdale made the request for the temporary transfer of the water license in a June 24 letter to council.

CAO Sheldon Steinke said he had contacted Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) to ask them what the procedure would be for such a transfer and its pros and cons.

Mayor Blair Painter expressed concern that the municipality would lose water capacity and Steinke confirmed that the province would withhold ten per cent of the transferred water because of the transfer process. However, Steinke said the law in this regard was flexible and the holdback could be avoided.

The transfer would be valid for ten years and would only be for surface water, not the municipality's artesian water, which is for human consumption. The municipality holds seven surface water licenses and one municipal water license.

Riversdale would need additional surface water to operate the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Mine.

Depending on its quality, coal may need to be "washed" with water and chemicals to remove sulfur and impurities before it can be used.



MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT PERMIT LAND USE BYLAW No. 868-2013

The Development Authority of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass recently approved the following development application(s):

1. **DP2015-047**; Plan 9211271, Block 1, Lot 4, 1604 E. Hillcrest Drive, Hillcrest, AB. Discretionary Use: 32 ft x 60 ft Accessory Building with side yard setback waiver (subject to conditions).
2. **DP2015-054**; Plan 1252FQ, Lot 5, 2322-77th Street, Coleman, AB. Discretionary Use: Class II Home Occupation (Saddle & Leather Goods Maker) (subject to conditions).
3. **DP2015-075**; Plan 7711490, Block 7, Lot 2-3, 2926-22nd Street, Bellevue. Discretionary Use: Class II Home Occupation (Pottery Business) (subject to conditions).
4. **DP2015-076**; Plan 1004LK, Block B, Lot 1, 902-232 Street, Hillcrest, AB. Discretionary Use: 12 ft. x 16 ft. Accessory Building and lean-to with a front yard setback waiver (subject to conditions).
5. **DP2015-077**; Plan 3661I, Block 30, Lots 26-27, 14910-22nd Ave, Frank. Permitted Use: Single Family Dwelling with height, lot coverage, and front yard setback waivers (subject to conditions).
6. **DP2015-085**; Plan 2280T, Block 5, Lots 1-2, 13306-19th Ave, Blairmore. Discretionary Use: 26 ft. x 30 ft. Detached Garage with rear yard, secondary front yard, and height waivers (subject to conditions).

Any persons claiming to be adversely affected by the above development may file an appeal in writing by August 12, 2015, to the MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS, SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD, BOX 600, CROWSNEST PASS, ALBERTA T0K 0E0. A fee of \$200.00 must be included with the appeal.

Jenny Wong
Development Officer
403-563-2218
development@crowsnestpass.com



Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale

Public Notice

Grassy Mountain Coal Project—Participant Funding Available for Public Comment on the Upcoming Environmental Assessment

OTTAWA, July 16, 2015 — The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is making funding available through its Participant Funding Program to assist the public and Aboriginal groups in participating in the environmental review of the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project, near Blairmore, Alberta.

Funding is available for eligible individuals and groups to participate in the upcoming environmental assessment, including reviewing and providing comments on the Review Panel Terms of Reference and the Environmental Impact Statement, and preparing for and participating in the public hearing. Funding will also assist participants in commenting on the potential conditions that would be required, if the project is allowed to proceed.

To apply for funding, email the Participant Funding Program at PFPPAFP@ceaa-acee.gc.ca or call 1-866-582-1884. The Application form-Environmental Assessment by Review Panel is available on the Agency website at ceaa.gc.ca under Participant Funding.

Applications received by **August 31, 2015** will be considered. Recipients and the amount of funding allocated will be announced at a later date.

Environment Minister, Leona Aglukkaq, recently referred the environmental assessment of the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project to an independent review panel.

The project proponent, Benga Mining Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Riversdale Resources Limited, is proposing to construct and operate an open-pit metallurgical coal mine near the Crowsnest Pass, approximately seven kilometres north of Blairmore, in south-west Alberta. As proposed, the production capacity of the project would be a maximum of four million tonnes of clean coal per year, over a mine-life of about 25 years.

To be included on the distribution list and be kept informed of the panel review process and activities, provide an email address to CEAA.GrassyMountain.ACEE@ceaa-acee.gc.ca. Information on the project and the environmental assessment process is available on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry at ceaa.gc.ca, reference number 80101.

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Grassy Mountain Coal project and Golf course

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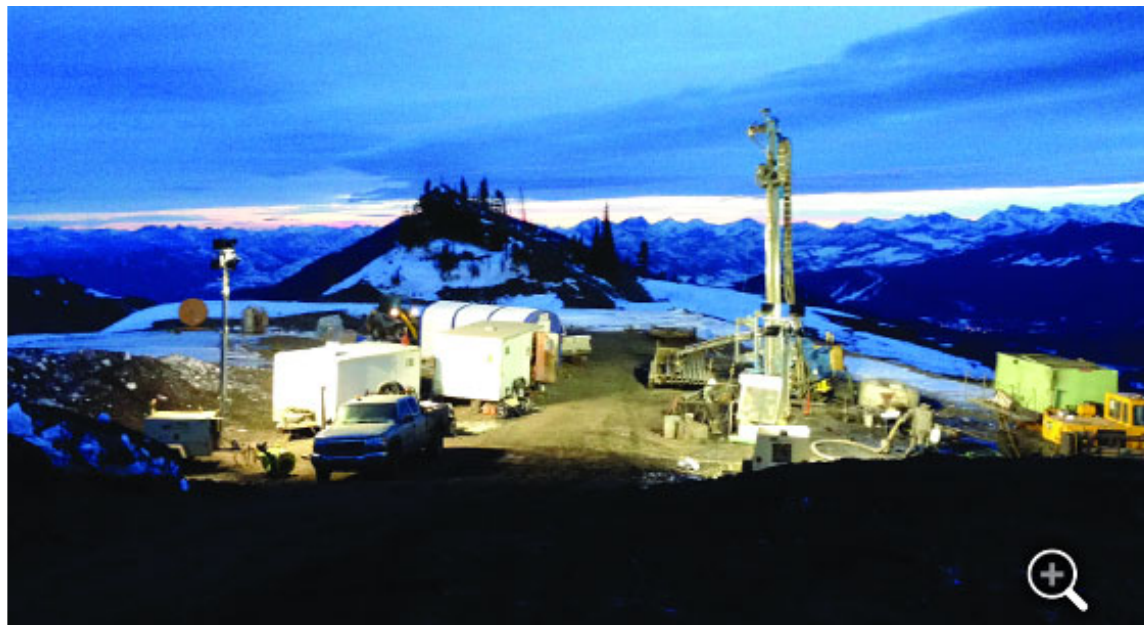
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Riversdale Resources Mine Site - Grassy Mountain, Crowsnest pass

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

The Grassy Mountain Coal Project took a mini step forward July 21, when council gave conditional approval to locate the coal loading facility for the proposed mine on the Crowsnest Pass Golf & Country Club (CNPGCC).

STORY IDEA, COMMENT, OR NEWS TIP?

Conditional approval of the site will allow Riversdale Resources Ltd. to submit a its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to federal and provincial regulators while leaving room for public input as the project goes through different levels of approval.

Riversdale has promised to compensate the golf course for any lost holes and facilities and last week, the mayor and council took a tour of Grassy Mountain but the trip did little to ease fears about placing a coal load out so close to town.

“I’m not in favour of putting this right in the middle of our community,” said Mayor Blair Painter. “I just don’t feel good about that. This is something we’re going to have to live with and we’re already living with [the results of] previous mining activity.”

“I would prefer they went into an industrial area,” said Councillor Shar Cartwright. “But the golf course is private and it’s a deal between two private enterprises.”

“We’re not in favour of either of the valley sites but because the golf course has grander visions of a new golf course and a new club house, they seem to be on board,” said Councillor Bill Kovach.

But with the CNPGCC and Alberta Transport both happy with the proposed load out location, council seems to be contenting itself with dictating land use and zoning conditions to exert control over the project.

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“The rezoning and subdivision processes keeps council in the driver’s seat in terms of land use,” explained CAO Sheldon Steinke. “[And] there are built in checkpoints for public input.”

Steinke said council could put conditions on Riversdale before the company submits a subdivision application and it could direct the rezoning application like an area structure plan. Rezoning the golf course would mean changing the Land Use Bylaw, which always requires public consultation.

Steinke confirmed that it would be during the subdivision and rezoning processes that council could put conditions on the project that would mitigate noise and dust.

Development officer Jenny Wong explained that council could also draw up a concept plan that will cover noise and dust issues that would be handled at the development permit stage.

Steinke’s July 21 report to council said nine holes of the community golf course would need to be subdivided and rezoned to accommodate the proposed load out. The report said Riversdale has moved ahead with discussions with golf course executives to the point of funding discussions on the preliminary post-load out design of the course.

The golf course and Riversdale will need to submit an application to subdivide the course at some time in the future and request that the property be rezoned for industrial use.

The thought of an industrial zone north of Blairmore concerned several councillors who were unimpressed with a Sedgman Canada Ltd. report on the project's train loading system that said there would be "no coal stored in stockpiles adjacent to the load facility and the Blairmore community."

"All product and coal stockpiles will be located at the mine and product coal transported down as required to load each train," said the report. "All coal will be transported to the load out facility by a covered or closed conveyor system and bins, removing the potential for winds to cause dust issues."

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The report did little to assuage Kovach because it compares the proposed Grassy Mountain load out to the old Greenhill Mine, which operated just north of Blairmore from 1913 to 1957.

"I'm disappointed Riversdale accepted this because I really do think they should

have at least compared it to the existing facilities in the Elk Valley that we have right now, not facilities that we had in the 1950s,” he said.

“I feel really uneasy about this whole thing,” said Kovach. “This load out might not work...they still have the right to apply for coal stockpile storage and silos if that site is approved. Once they’re there and operating in this so-called dustless load out [what happens if] they find out they need silos to feed their trains?”

Patrick Thomas, director of Planning, Engineering and Operations explained that the land could have many discretionary uses once it’s rezoned as industrial. One such discretionary use is resource-processing plants but the Land Use Bylaw does not define what a resource-processing plant is.

“So that is a caution,” said Thomas. “Once it is rezoned to industrial use it is industrial use in any shape or form as put out in the Land Use Bylaw.”

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July 29th ~ Vol. 85 No. 30

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GRASSY MOUNTAIN VS. COAL

Posted on August 16, 2015 (<https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/2015/08/grassy-mountain-vs-coal/>) by [Romy Tittel](#)

(<https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/author/rtittel/>)

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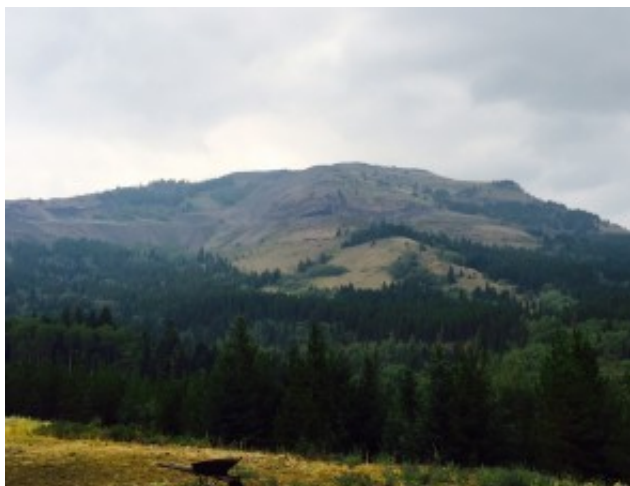
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I was invited by a number of concerned landowners to come out and see Grassy Mountain. This mountain is the proposed site of the Benga Mining/Riversdale Resources open-pit coal mine north of Blairmore.

I had already been made aware of this project when I had a booth in the [Coleman Lifestyle Show](http://greenpartyfoothills.ca/2015/04/crowsnest-pass-lifestyle-show/) (<http://greenpartyfoothills.ca/2015/04/crowsnest-pass-lifestyle-show/>) back in April of this year. Our booth happened to be situated directly across from the [Riversdale Resource](#)



(<http://www.rivresources.com/irm/content/overview1.aspx?RID=317&RedirectCount=1>) booth. Their booth hosted a number of large pictures of alpine meadows and blue skies all very idyllic except for the part of removing a mountain to get to the coal seam.

This mine had already been worked back in the 1950's, again in the 1970's and had since been abandoned, the scars still evident these many decades later. The group of landowners took me for a tour of their properties at the foot of this mountain, then they showed me Gold Creek. This watershed is federally listed as critical habitat for a native threatened species, [Westslope Cutthroat Trout](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS


7:00 pm IAC Speaker Series presents Lorianne @ Redwood House (https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/event/iac-speaker-series-presents-lorianne-tenove/?instance_id=522)


4:00 pm High River Farmers Market @ High River Farmers Market (<https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/event/high-river-farmers-market/>)

(<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/species-especes/slopecutthroattrout-truitefardee-eng.htm>). Their habitat will almost certainly be impacted by this development. I had just posted a couple of articles announcing the [closure of many fishing spots](#) (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/more-fishing-areas-closed-by-province-as-heat-low-water-threaten-species-1.3192061>) in the area due to low water levels and the heat stressing the fish.

I had already posted an article detailing the United Church of Canada's [decision to divest from fossil fuels](#) (<http://fossilfreefaith.ca/united-church-of-canada-votes-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels/>). This mirrored the decisions of many major institution over this past year, all coming to the same conclusion; the tide has turned on these forms of energy. The future lies in renewable resources and taking firm action on mitigating climate change by taking real steps towards lowering our carbon emissions.

This week also had me enjoying the company of two musicians, [Ceslo Machado](#) (<http://www.celsomachado.com/>) and [William Beauvais](#) (<http://music.cbc.ca/#!/artists/William-Beauvais>) who had come to teach and perform at this year's Mount Royal University's [Guitarfest West](#) (http://www.mtroyal.ca/ProgramsCourses/FacultiesSchoolsCentres/TheConservatory/Programs/ssdata_cons_guitarfest.htm). It was at Ceslo's performance that I had the chance to talk with one of the attendees, [Jason Donev](#) (http://wcmprodlb.ucalgary.ca/phas_info/profiles/jason-donev), about entering politics. It turn out he is a senior instructor at the University of Calgary and he and his students are writing an [energy encyclopedia](#) (http://energyeducation.ca/encyclopedia/Main_Page) to help us navigate our way to the new energy future.


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3:30 pm Okotoks Farmers Market @ Farmers Market
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[Grassy Mountain vs. Coal](#)
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I also had confirmation this week that my name was going to be on the ballot in the upcoming Federal Election. It is issues such as this coal mine that have me excited to be part of the new parliament. We Canadians are standing at a crossroads with not only our energy future but our country's future and our beautiful Earth's future. Let us all stand together and bravely and confidently take the first steps towards our future.

This entry was tagged [Ceslo Machado](https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/tag/ceslo-machado/) (<https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/tag/ceslo-machado/>), [Grassy Mountain](https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/tag/grassy-mountain/) (<https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/tag/grassy-mountain/>), [Jason Donev](https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/tag/jason-donev/) (<https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/tag/jason-donev/>), [William Beauvais](https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/tag/william-beauvais/) (<https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/tag/william-beauvais/>). Bookmark the [permalink](https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/2015/08/grassy-mountain-vs-coal/) (<https://greenpartyfoothills.ca/2015/08/grassy-mountain-vs-coal/>).

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Westshore Terminals Announces Q3 2015 Distribution



VANCOUVER, Sept. 17, 2015 /CNW/ - Westshore Terminals Investment Corporation (TSX: WTE) ("Westshore" or the "Corporation") announced today that a dividend of \$0.33 per share will be paid on or before October 15, 2015 to shareholders of record on September 30, 2015, which is the same amount per share that was paid in Q3 2014. The Q3 2015 dividend will be designated an "eligible dividend" for Canadian tax purposes.

For the eight months ended August 31, 2015, Westshore loaded 20.5 million tonnes as compared to 21.1 million tonnes for the same period in 2014. Throughput volumes for 2015, are anticipated to be approximately 29 – 30 million tonnes for the year as a whole, at rates higher than 2014 as a whole.

Westshore has received, and continues to receive, throughput shortfall payments from customers who have reduced volumes for this year and anticipates 2015 revenues to exceed 2014 revenues. Significant work related to site and equipment specific preparation for the \$270 million capital project has been undertaken thus far this year.

Westshore entered into an agreement in December 2014 with Riversdale Resources Limited, a Canadian company developing a metallurgical (steel making) coal mine located in Blairmore, Alberta. Under the terms of the original agreement, Riversdale agreed to pay Westshore (and has been paying) an annual reservation fee to secure annual throughput of 2 million tonnes, with shipments commencing in 2019. The parties have recently amended the original agreement to double the annual throughput to 4 million tonnes of capacity, and as part of the revised arrangement, Riversdale will pay additional reservation fees. The term of the agreement is 12 years, ending in 2030.

The foregoing statements concerning anticipated throughput volumes, loading rates and the levels of dividends are statements that reflect the current expectations of the Corporation with respect to future events and performance. Forward-looking statements should not be read as guarantees of future performance or results, and will not necessarily be accurate indications of whether such performance or results will be achieved.

Forward-looking statements are based on information available at the time they are made, assumptions made by management, and management's good faith belief with respect to future events, and will be impacted by and are subject to the risks and uncertainties outlined in the Corporation's Annual Information Form that

could cause actual performance or results to differ materially from those reflected in the forward-looking statements, historical results or current expectations.

SOURCE Westshore Terminals Investment Corporation

For further information: Nick Desmarais, Secretary & Vice President Corporate Development, (604) 488-5214

Organization Profile

Westshore Terminals Investment Corporation

- [Westshore Terminals Files 2015 Second Quarter Report and Annual General Meeting Results](#)
- [Westshore Terminals announces Q2 2015 distribution](#)
- [Westshore Terminals Files 2015 First Quarter Report](#)

[More on this organization](#)

Find this article at:

<http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/westshore-terminals-announces-q3-2015-distribution-528128121.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Community Focus on the Matter of the Riversdale

Dear Editor:

We can all make mistakes, and do so, on a regular basis. The ability to step back, reassess and change direction is a necessary asset to living and leading in a community. A sure sign of good leadership is the desire to do the right thing and the humility to adjust one's attitude and stance when additional information becomes available or to actively seek new information. Changing one's stance sometimes requires looking at the bigger picture. A big picture can be seen when in a helicopter and looking down at the situation from the 3000 meter level. Once up there, away from the noise and clamor of the moment, one can develop clarity of thought and gain new resolve. I would like to present a three thousand meter view of the load-out options the community is faced with as identified by Riversdale. Before proceeding, I need to comment on my rationale for writing this letter.

I struggled with even approaching this load-out subject because of my participation on the Municipal Planning Commission. Weighing the pros and cons, I concluded that it is relatively easy to write articles on matters of low consequence. However, this is a substantial matter requiring significant reflective time and thought. I inherently feel that more 'community good' is possible than 'personal bad'; hence this letter. Hopefully this is helpful.

Now back to the helicopter and three thousand meter level:

The Golf Course Load-out Option:

The size of the actual footprint can be seen from this height. The cut and fill required at that lovely location on Highway Three where the golf course used to be is now obvious, an industrial atmosphere is visi-

ble to passersby. River Run on one side and fill material with a train and load-out visible on the other. We trade perfect natural advertising for a sign. A sign now shows a lovely golf course located on the other side of an industrial load-out. Tourists are not impressed and drive by. The 'drop in' golf opportunity is lost. Half of Blairmore sees and hears the load-out activity every day.

The Coleman Load-out Option:

In the blink of an eye, we see another option. There is a load-out beside the tracks, some extra track, a building and a covered conveyor belt. Industrial activity is near the main rail line where it is expected to be and is zoned for. The footprint is less noticeable to the highway traffic. The conveyor belt goes subsurface in places to allow for wildlife crossings. Looking further in time, highly noticeable areas of the conveyor are now screened with natural planted vegetation. Some people see the load-out activity each day and students can observe primary industry, a driver of economics in Alberta.

Other Options:

It is not clear that there are other reasonable options at this point so a helicopter view is not possible.

Terrain dictates some matters in the Crownsnest Pass, for instance, railroad grades and accessibility. Is there a better natural location for a load out than in Coleman? It is debateable, perhaps yes, perhaps no. Has the public been presented with all possible options? The Coleman load-out is in a location identified for such activity (Non Urban Area 1 (NUA 1) Resource Processing activities, a discretionary use) and any new construction or purchase of homes in the vicinity should have been made with the realization of area zoning and industrial activities along the rail

including those in Coleman, land values will go up if the Riversdale mine comes to fruition. Regardless of the load-out location, the community will benefit and not at the cost of losing the recreation or tourist industry.

The Council and community focus on load-outs needs to change from what appears as a black and white "No" stance to a "Yes" and how well Riversdale can address our fears and concerns. A conversation moving along the lines of 'over the top' dust control management, (a modified load-out entry and exits designed to address extreme wind events, perhaps a building within a building, and the like), of visual screening (tall trees at the load-out, natural shrubbery along the conveyor at critical points), landscaping, wildlife passage, and building colour. Council can lead by demonstrating a change in focus and a willingness to press Riversdale to go above and beyond with engineering and landscaping details that they have not considered or mentioned up to now.

Can our community, Mayor and Council move beyond a no/yes approach behind closed doors to a more open discussion on the matter of the Riversdale load-out? It seems to me that moving to a community dialogue is a necessary progressive step. The time of "in camera" sessions needs to be replaced with some open, disciplined discussion and debate. This could lessen the burden of a final decision on Mayor and Council and could result in a decision-making process that provides more defined benefits. For example, the Mayor, Council and a Citizens' Task Force could engage Riversdale with the aim of developing an Impact Benefits Agreement (IBA). Such an agreement would require more detailed discussion and a

process would also allow participants to assess the opportunity costs of one option over another. What is being lost if one option is chosen over another? As we have seen in the July 8th news article, the golf course leadership have no choice but to work with and support the development of new greens and a club house but what if the total cost of the golf course load-out option is 40 million more than a load-out placement along the railroad tracks in Coleman or another location? What part of that 40 million can be negotiated in favour of the Community for some other need? If the golf course and club house is being replaced (an expected requirement) what is the compensation to the community for losing the scenery along the highway and for many of the Blairmore residences having to watch the load-out process forever?

In closing I would like to reiterate the essential need for the identification and inclusion of a Citizens' Task Force to engage in a more open dialogue on the load-out options. Also, movement towards an Impact Benefits Agreement is a practical process required immediately to ensure the best deal for the citizens of the Crownsnest Pass and Riversdale.

Tim Juhlin

LETTERS POLICY

The Pass Herald welcomes Letters to the Editor that examine issues, but reserves the right to edit for length, libel and syntax. Writers must sign letters and include first and last names, address and telephone number. Address and telephone numbers will not be published. Only in exceptional cases will the Pass Herald withhold the name of the writer and in those cases the writer must disclose his/her name, address and telephone number to the Editor.

Letters to the Editor do not re-

Riversdale shares expected impacts of Grassy Mountain Coal Project

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Coal seam in Grassy Mountain, Crowsnest Pass, Alberta.

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

A social impact assessment produced on behalf of Riversdale Resources is promising growth for the community if the Grassy Mountain Coal Project moves forward and stagnation and decline if it doesn't.

On Oct. 14, in a presentation to the Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce at Stone's Throw Cafe, Riversdale executives presented the assessment that outlines some of the expected effects of the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.

The assessment was produced by Nichols Applied Management, a consulting firm that offers services in the fields of economic and financial analysis, for the project's Environmental Impact Assessment and foresees a community full of workers and their families by 2021, if the mine goes ahead.

Without the mine, the report foresees a town lacking a commercial and industrial tax base and a declining population.

Population effects

The report says 660 mine workers and their families are expected to move to the Pass by 2021 if the project goes ahead by which point the population could be well over 5,700.

The Pass' population has been declining steadily since the 1970s and without the mine, is expected to drop from its current figure of about 5,500 to approximately 5,040 residents by 2021.

There will also be an expected influx of 1,800 temporary workers to build the mine. About 60 workers would be onsite for mine construction through 2017. That number will be increased through 2018 until it peaks at 180 workers before ramping down to zero in 2019 when construction will cease.

Once operational, the mine will employ about 385 people, primarily heavy equipment operators, millwrights and process operators.

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Through the creation of direct, indirect and induced employment, the report claims that the project will create about 1,050 jobs. Of those, the report states 640 will be created in Alberta and 410 in B.C. An estimated 245 jobs will be created in the Crowsnest Pass area and 155 in Sparwood

Housing effects

The people migrating to the Pass will need approximately 165 additional houses by 2021. The report foresees two extra houses would be needed in the Municipal District of Ranchland and 109 in Sparwood.

There will be houses available in 2021 as the population decline outpaces the housing decline, says the report. However, though many of the Pass' available houses are either too expensive or are in disrepair to house the workers.

Infrastructure effects

Without the mine, the community's existing infrastructure will be sufficient to service the population but if the project goes forward, the demands will exceed the planned infrastructure.

Already, the Frank Waste Water Treatment Plant exceeds capacity during the spring freshet and the municipality's water allotment is currently exceeded.

The community will need another two RCMP officers, 10 firefighters, three ambulance service staff, five teachers and one more physician to serve the community if the mine goes forward.

The report says the increased population will mean more traffic and an increase in the chance of road or industrial accidents.

Income effects

During construction, Riversdale expects to spend nearly \$4 million in the region primarily in the form of equipment purchases from local suppliers and nearly \$25 million annually in the region when the mine is operating, primarily in wages.

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The company will pay an estimated \$490,000 in municipal property taxes this year.

Over the course of the expected 25 years the mine will be operating, Riversdale is expected to pay \$195 million in royalties. It would also pay \$140 million in provincial taxes and \$210 million in federal taxes.

Environmental issues

The mine would drastically effect the local environment. Coal wash plants need considerable amounts of water and Riversdale is still in discussion with the municipality regarding surface water leases.

Selenium contamination is a huge problem for Elk Valley mines. Samples from recently dug core holes are being analyzed to see if there could be similar problems for Grassy Mountain.

The proposed mine could affect crucial habitat for native cutthroat trout through erosion and sedimentation of streams. There are a number of potential risks to plant species such as white pine and native fescue grassland. The area is also home to grizzly bears, mountain goats, cougars and other wildlife.

Studies on coal dust and noise from the mine have yet to be done and the project would affect cultural, archeological and historical sites including an ancient First Nations campsite and historic buildings from the long abandoned Greenhill Mine.

Timeline to production

Riversdale has completed a feasibility study and is expected to submit an environmental impact assessment by the end of the month, which will be reviewed by both federal and provincial regulators.

The mine would produce about 4 million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year for overseas steel manufacturing over a 25-year mine life. The report said the first shipment of Grassy Mountain coal will be delivered by the first quarter of 2019.

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Archeological assessment underway on golf course



Herald staff photo

Preparation is underway to put a load out for Riversdale at the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club.

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

Preparations are underway to build a rail load out for a coal mine on the community golf course.

Last week, Bison Historical Services, a Calgary based company that specializes in cultural resource management, archaeology and heritage consulting, was at the golf course conducting an archeological assessment.

Tommy Ng, Bison's senior project archeologist, said the work was in its preliminary stages.

"We've just started looking at the data," he said.

A report in a council agenda package said that on Sept. 30, a special meeting was held to discuss Riversdale Resources proposal to locate the rail

load out for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project on the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club (CNPGCC).

In attendance were Peter Murray, Riversdale's Operations Manager, CNPGCC superintendent Waren Geitz, Rick Breakenridge, chairman of the CNPGCC steering committee, the mayor and council, CAO Sheldon Steinke and Patrick Thomas, Director of Planning, Engineering and Operations.

Breakenridge presented the plan for major alterations to the golf course, which include the building of nine new holes on the west side of Blairmore Creek to make way for the coal load out, and said there would be continuous play on the course during construc-

tion. The course would be taken off the municipal water supply and would move to a "self-sustaining" supply as a result of the work.

The group discussed the way forward, which will involve rezoning the golf course and subdivision to allow for future industrial use.

Murray said that Riversdale has been part of the planning process for the golf course changes.

Geitz said the clubhouse would have to be demolished to make way for the load out. He could not confirm when construction would begin.

"There are a lot of hoops to jump through before we can actually start pulling trees and moving dirt," he said.

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Local and Opinions

Letters to the Editor

We can't survive on our tax base

Dear Editor:

In response to Mr. Yannerilla's letter "There is more to life than money", please tell that to a family wanting to live in the Pass, but struggling to survive here, because there are few opportunities for decent-paying jobs. Tell that to Municipal Council struggling to keep facilities open, such as the arena, pool, and ski hill, and to keep up with infrastructure needs, with no industrial tax base. Have you been downtown lately and seen all the vacant storefronts?

To compare a new coal mine to the 100+ year-old mines in the Eastern States is ludicrous. Have you taken the trouble to read or hear the information that Riversdale is providing to us about the hoops they are having to jump through to ensure that

none of your rash predictions will come true? Virginia coal companies didn't have to do any of that 100 years ago, nor did the companies operating here in Pass several decades ago. Today is a different story.

Is "every resident" of Sparwood, Elkford, or Fernie suffering adverse health conditions from the 5 mines operating in the Elk Valley? Not that I have heard. Has their "quality of life" diminished due to the presence of these mines? Just ask them, as they enjoy the beautiful recreational facilities provided to them by the mining companies. Their tourist industries have not suffered in the least, and in fact are growing yearly. Do you see smog hanging over the valley like the big cities? We haven't seen any, and we drive through

there dozens of times every year.

The proposed Grassy Mountain mine, known to those of us who grew up here as "Grassy strip", is located miles out of town. To imply that everyone in this valley is going to suffer such a severe decline in our quality of life is just over the top.

Like most others here, we want to be sure that every regulation is adhered to, that every permit is properly obtained, and that every effort is made to make this mine a positive influence for all of us. Having talked to some of the people from Riversdale, we think they are sincere in their wish to make this mine a cooperative and positive experience for everyone involved. They want to do this safely and responsibly. We need this project!

By the way, Department of Municipal Affairs statistics state that historically, any Municipality whose tax base is more than 78% residential, will not survive financially. Our tax base is over 90% residential!!

Inflammatory comments such as yours, are not supported by facts. They do nothing to enhance the rational discussions that should be and are going on regarding this project. To say that "nothing could be worse" for us here in the Pass, and not have it substantiated by some facts, reminds me of the attitude of a person I grew up with. His philosophy was "I have already made up my mind, so don't confuse me with the facts".

Dick and Susan Burgman

Multiple use in the Castle

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank the Herald for their coverage of this "Castle" issue.

Integrated Resource Plan. These different plans and public consultations

Regarding forest harvesting (logging), I have always tried to remove

park. I'm surprised they "tipped their hand" so quickly. By the fact that the

that reads, "Help wanted" computer.

Mine messes of the past blamed for Gold Creek tailings release



Gold Creek - Crowsnest Pass, Alberta

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

As Alberta's energy regulator continues investigating Riversdale Resources Ltd. for the release of coal tailings into Gold Creek, environmental consultants hired by the Australian based company are saying the incident resulted from a legacy of un-remediated mining.

Dane McCoy, an environmental consultant with Millennium EMS Solutions Ltd., said the incident that led to the investigation occurred in July when a large pile of coal tailings from an earlier mine site located on Crown Land near Grassy Mountain collapsed into Gold Creek after a heavy rainfall.

As part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Millenium and Hatfield Consultants have investigated Gold Creek and some of its tributaries and determined that this type of event has been happening since mining ceased on Grassy Mountain sixty years ago.

"There's plenty of evidence to show that this is not unusual for Gold Creek but it's never been reported previously," said McCoy. "It's a very degraded watershed."

McCoy said there are nine former mine sites on Riversdale's Grassy Mountain holdings many of which have not been cleaned up to modern standards.

"Traditionally Alberta hasn't held anybody responsible for those legacy-mining activities," he said. "The old legacy open pit mining activities were abandoned because that was alright in the 1960s, we know better now."

Riversdale's managing director Steve Mallyon said tailings from the old mine sites would continue to degrade Gold Creek. Remediation work that would follow the Grassy Mountain Coal Project would provide an opportunity to clean the site, he said.

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As the coal is mined, overburden would be stored which would allow for the cleanup of the many piles of coal tailings on Grassy Mountain. This would lead to improvements in the quality of the stream, he said.

“As we mine through, we’ll reclaim mining legacy piles,” said Mallyon.

He also said a proposed settling pond at the bottom of the hill would prevent releases from entering the Crowsnest River.

Riversdale has also proposed a stewardship program, separate from the EIA, in partnership with the Crowsnest Conservation Society, to restore Gold Creek.

“Riversdale isn’t going to do this on its own, we have to do it with the community and various groups,” said Mallyon. “The end result will hopefully be a cleaner creek.”

Brittany Verbeek, conservation specialist with the AWA, thinks Riversdale needs to be held accountable for Gold Creek, which is considered crucial habitat for Alberta’s threatened population of Westslope cutthroat trout.

Westslope cutthroat trout are listed as a threatened species in Alberta and were listed federally in March 2013. A federal recovery plan for the trout was finalized in 2014 and Verbeek said locating a mine on Grassy Mountain could violate the plan.

“The recovery strategy outlines Gold Creek and Blairmore Creek as critical habitat,” said Verbeek. “I just think recovery strategies need to be implemented and some of these populations are so isolated and small, we need to be actively recovering the population and not increasing risk to their habitat.”

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Cutthroat trout have experienced a decline in numbers due to habitat loss, over-harvesting and the introduction of non-native species. Scientists believe the fish now inhabit about five per cent of their original distribution.

The AER is using a three-phase process to investigate Riversdale to determine whether the company failed to comply with the rules. First, AER staff collects information and conducts a site and incident assessment. Second, is an analysis of the materials collected and the third phase includes the final file review and enforcement response decision.

“We are currently in the evidence collection phase of the investigation,” said Ryan Bartlett, senior advisor with the Alberta Energy Regulator.

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Ranchland, Pass yet to discuss taxes

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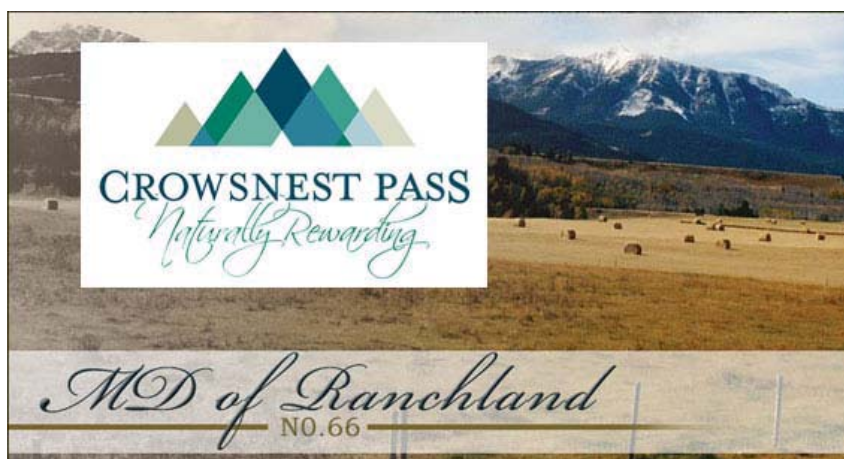
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EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

Hopefully this won't end up like it did in "One Tin Soldier."

The 1960s Canadian anti-war song tells the story of a hidden treasure and two neighboring peoples: the peaceful Mountain People and the warlike Valley People. The Mountain People had a treasure buried under a stone. The Valley People, thinking it was gold, sent a message to the Mountain People asking for it.

The Mountain People replied that they were willing to share the treasure but that wasn't enough for the Valley People who invaded the mountain and killed all the Mountain People in the process. The Valley People then moved the stone and found only a simple message: "Peace on Earth."

Industrial tax sharing between the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and the Municipal District (MD) of Ranchland involves a less rhetorical treasure.

While some of the infrastructure, including the rail load out facility for the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project would be located within the Pass, the actual mountaintop coal mine would fall within the MD of Ranchland.

At an open house on Oct. 29, Riversdale's managing director Steve Mallyon said the MD of Ranchland would be entitled to about \$950,000 per year in industrial taxation while the Pass would be entitled to \$450,000, a little over half that amount.

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Mallyon said the MD of Ranchland could be willing to give the Pass some of the tax dollars from the proposed mine.

“We had some discussions with Ranchland as part of our consultation and there was some willingness on their part to enter into a revenue sharing agreement,” he said. “And that’s an acknowledgement of the fact that they are enjoying some benefit of the project without necessarily incurring all of the cost.”

Greg Brkich, Ranchland chief administrative officer (CAO), said his municipality has held no formal discussions with the Pass regarding Ranchland sharing their share of industrial taxes since the Pass tried to annex Grassy Mountain from Ranchland in 2013.

“One individual council member from my council might talk to one individual council member from their council about revenue sharing but I don’t consider that official,” he said.

In June 2013, six-months after Australia based Riversdale Resources Ltd. purchased 35,000-acres of coal properties and freehold land assets, including the Grassy Mountain Project, from Devon Energy and Consol Energy for a total of \$49.5 million US, Crowsnest Pass’ then council sent a letter to Ranchland’s council to discuss annexing the site of the proposed mine.

The Pass wanted to annex all of land that lies to the south and west of the Oldman River, which would have resulted in the loss of one-third of the MD of Ranchland. Additionally, Crowsnest’s council proposed that Ranchland cover the costs of the annexation.

At first the Pass was talking about amalgamating with Ranchland. In the Crowsnest Dec. 18, 2012, agenda report on the annexation process, then CAO Myron Thompson stated that the community strategic action plan supported “an initiative of amalgamation of Crowsnest Pass and MD of Ranchland.” But Under further review, Crowsnest Pass wanted annexation rather than amalgamation, said the report.

A March 22, 2013 letter to Crowsnest Pass council in response to the annexation proposal stated Ranchland would have had to pay \$200,000 per year for five years to Crowsnest Pass “to cover the cost of servicing the proposed annexation area prior to any new potential tax revenue being realized.”

continued below ...

To pay for the pleasure of being annexed, the Pass proposed Ranchland raise its mill rate on linear and commercial properties, machinery and equipment.

“In other words, tax the Ranchland ratepayers to subsidize the [Pass],” said the letter.

Ranchland did not support the attempted takeover but it did support sharing tax

revenue from the Grassy Mountain mine.

“If any proposed coal mining venture does proceed then, a **HOME PAGE**
centre, not only will such economic development benefit the Municipality of

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Riversdale's open house highlights

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EZRA BLACK Pass Herald Reporter

On Oct. 29, Benga Mining, a wholly owned subsidiary of Australia-based Riversdale Resources Ltd., held an open house at the MDM Community Centre to discuss the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.

In a presentation to several hundred attendees, Riversdale executives Calvin Clark, Development Manager, Steve Mallyon, Managing Director, and David Leslie, Vice President of Technical Services, gave an update on the project and fielded questions from the audience.

They were joined by representatives from a number of contractors including Pearce Shewchuk, management and economic consultant with Nichols Applied Management, and Dane McCoy, an environmental consultant with Millennium EMS Solutions Ltd.

Here are the highlights:

Riversdale: a low cost operator

Mallyon described Riversdale as a small, low-cost operator that specializes in developing projects during economic downturns.

"Every project we've ever developed has been during a downturn," he said. "We compete for services such as trucks and equipment but also people and expertise and we find that there is a lot more available during the bad times than there is during the good."

This approach will keep the project competitive in the long term regardless of the price of metallurgical coal and has ensured that all of the coal projects the company began are still operating, said Mallyon.

Crownsnest resident Ian Lowe-Wylde asked if the company would consider making a capital investment in the community.

"I think Riversdale needs to invest in some real hard money rather than just providing jobs," he said. "Build us something that we get to keep when you leave."

Mallyon did not consent to making any such investment but said the company would help foster new businesses over the course of the mine's life.

"It's not our desire to create a monument to mining and Riversdale," he said. "The

community model that we've looked at is a participatory one. We're not interested in being a company town or a major employer."

Clark said the company has contributed to the community through Australia Day, the rodeo and weed pulls.

"I think building a legacy in a community is something we believe in," he said. "Given where we're at in the project... I think we've already made a massive contribution to this community. Will these legacy items change over time? Absolutely."

Riversdale has spent \$17 million to date in Canada, not including the \$49.5 million US they spent to acquire 35,000-acres of coal properties and freehold land assets in the area, including the Grassy Mountain Project, from Devon Energy and Consol Energy in June 2013.

Since then they've spent \$3.8 million in the Pass, mostly on salaries.

Nuts and bolts and dust

Grassy Mountain is expected to have a 25 year mine life. Fifty per cent of the project will be located on Riversdale's land and the rest on Crown land. At its peak, the mine will produce 4 million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year for Asian and South American steelmakers. The company is proposing to locate a rail loop and load out facility on the community golf course, which will load an average of 4.8 trains per week.

A covered conveyor belt would transport the coal to the load out facility before it would make the 1150 kilometre journey to Westshore Terminals in Vancouver. Mallyon said Westshore is undertaking an expansion to accommodate the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.

Coal dust would be controlled by a Sedgman Ltd. designed load out structure and other initiatives, said McCoy.

"There are federal and provincial guidelines that must be met by the project," he said. "The project will absolutely be within the emissions standards."

Leslie said during full production the ration of overburden to coal being moved will be about nine to one. At 4 million tonnes a year, that means 36 million cubic meters of rock will be moved through drilling and blasting.

The waste rock would then be loaded onto haul trucks and moved to two waste disposal areas but once they're filled, the rock will be moved back into the mine.

"Otherwise we wouldn't have enough room for all the waste material," said Leslie.

Documents to be made public

All of the submission material, the application and the supporting environmental impact document from the Feasibility Study and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be available to the public.

Mallyon said the EIA would be submitted before the end of the year.

The project will undergo a joint federal and provincial review process. It is anticipated the entire process will take anywhere from 15 to 18 months. Permitting, licensing and construction are expected to take an additional 18-months and the first

coal shipment would be delivered around the first quarter of 2019.



Lifestyles to be affected

In a question to the assembled mining executives, Lowe-Wylde asked how the project would affect the community.

“When I moved here, I didn’t know there was going to be coal mine,” he said. “My biggest concern is if I’m going to stay here, how is my quality of life going to change? And what’s Blairmore going to look like in ten or fifteen years?”

“Yes there’s going to be some dust and noise, it’s going to be ugly [but] how will the community improve?” he asked.

Shewchuk cited a social impact assessment published by Nichols Applied Management that promises growth for the community if the mine opens.

Data contained in the assessment based on 2011 census numbers indicates the population of the Pass is shrinking and aging. The project would induce in-migration, though the assessment indicates Sparwood is a slightly more attractive community than Crowsnest mainly because there is more municipal infrastructure in Sparwood.

“It’s got community amenities that people find attractive,” said Shewchuk who emphasized that the project would still be good for the Pass.

“I think a project like this provides opportunity for jobs and we hope those jobs bring young people back into the community,” he said.

The population influx would increase the size of the community’s volunteer base and the size of classrooms.

“These are all positive aspects of population growth,” he said. “Without young people and without economic opportunity, communities tend to shrink and die and I think a project like this provides an opportunity to stave that off.”

Crowsnest resident John Redekopp disagreed with Shewchuk’s assessment of the Pass.

“You were talking about our dying community,” he said. “I’ve got to tell you, I take exception to that. Quality of life is why I moved here. I remember what the Crowsnest Pass used to be and what it looked like. When the mines stopped, things got cleaned up and I think it became a very nice place. I’m very concerned about what’s going to happen here.”

Crowsnest resident Peter Bubik questioned the accuracy of the Nichols report and asked if it showed how many residents might not move to the Pass because of its proximity to infrastructure associated with a coal mine.

“I can’t get away from the feeling that you guys are only exposing what is convenient for you to show the community,” he said.

Shewchuk said the report had not been published yet but data from the social impact assessment was presented to the Crowsnest Pass Chamber [HOME PAGE](#)
Throw Cafe on Oct. 14.

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NEWS

Riversdale holds Grassy Mountain open house



By John Stoesser, Pincher Creek Echo
Thursday, November 12, 2015 11:20:26 MST AM



Steve Mallyon, Riversdale's managing director addresses the audience in the MDM Centre in Bellevue on Oct. 29. John Stoesser photo/Pincher Creek Echo.

Steve Mallyon, managing director of Riversdale Resources, stood underneath the stitched blue-green mountains and "Naturally Rewarding" slogan on Crowsnest Pass' municipal flag and talked to residents about the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project.

The company held an open house at the MDM Centre in Bellevue on November 29. They displayed portions of the proposed mine's draft feasibility study and environmental impact assessment while directors, managers and consultants answered people's questions.

"Our mantra is to undertake responsible development that protects and enhances the people who work with us, the community, and the environment in which we work," Mallyon said in his opening statement.

Over 145 individuals signed in and 64 filled out feedback forms but it appeared at least half of the 400 chairs in the gymnasium were full.

Benga Mining, a Riversdale subsidiary, purchased the Grassy Mountain site in Aug. 2013 and now expects to file applications with the provincial and federal governments in the coming days to move the project into the development phase. The proposed mine would extract 4 million tonnes of coking coal - primarily used to manufacture steel - annually over 25 years.

Mallyon claimed the slump in thermal and coking coal prices could free resources for the project rather than hurt it.

"I know a number of you have made comments about why the hell Riversdale is going in this current market when virtually everyone else is shut," he said. "That in essence is the answer."

"We find we can only compete during the downturn," he said, noting the company is smaller than other industry players. "We compete for services such as trucks and equipment, but also people and expertise. We find it's a lot more available during the bad times than the good."

Even though market prices declined Mallyon told residents there is a demand for the product, especially in Asia and South America.

"I can tell you that the appetite for the product, hard coking coal, has been very good," he said.

"The acceptance of the product to date has been phenomenal."

If approved for development, Riversdale wants to have the Grassy Mountain mine shipping product by 2019. According to the managing director, there is easy access to rail and port infrastructure.

"With good rail and port infrastructure it's a large part of the challenge of developing a project [which] is dealt with," Mallyon said, adding there is a port deal with Westshore Terminals near Vancouver.

Soon Mallyon started talking finances. So far Riversdale has spent \$17 million in Canada, not including the site purchase price. They spent \$3.8 million of that in Crowsnest Pass, mainly in salaries.

Mallyon and his consultants pushed the economic stimulus rhetoric as reason to approve the mine and why it would be a positive development for Crowsnest Pass.

"We will have a significant impact on this community and it will be a positive one in terms of the stimulus that comes to this community in the form of jobs, new residents and income, including taxes," said Cal Clark, Riversdale's sustainable development manager.

During the question and answer session one resident asked how the tax revenue would be split between the municipalities of Ranchlands and Crowsnest Pass.

The mining company's economic consultant, Pearce Shewchuk, answered, saying a rough estimate was \$950,000 for Ranchlands and \$450,000 for Crowsnest Pass annually. Some people in the crowd did not sound pleased at that assessment.

Shewchuk called the situation interesting because the project is in part of Ranchlands that will enjoy taxation benefits but may not have costs on its infrastructure like Crowsnest Pass.

"However, we had some discussions with Ranchlands as part of our consultation and information gathering and there was some willingness on the part of Ranchlands to enter into something called a revenue sharing agreement," he said, calling it a fairly typical agreement. "That's an acknowledgement of the fact that they're enjoying some benefit of the project without necessarily incurring all of the costs."

"Those numbers I quoted reflect kind of a black and white application of mill rates and some assessment guidelines, however, I wouldn't expect them to shake out exactly that way," Shewchuk said.

The Crowsnest Pass Herald reported that Ranchland CAO Greg Brkich says there have been no formal talks between the two municipalities about sharing industrial taxes since the Pass tried to annex Grassy Mountain from Ranchland two years ago.

Another resident asked about how the quality of life would change if the mining operation is approved.

Pearce answered this as well, saying the Pass has a declining and ageing population but a new development could entice young families back to the area.

"I think as a whole for a community it's a positive thing," Shewcuk said. "I think that without young people and without economic activity, communities tend to shrink and die. A project like this provides an opportunity to kind of stave that off."

The resident was not satisfied with that answer.

"There's a lot of impact to dumping more people into the community," the resident said. "I think Riversdale needs to invest some real hard money other than just a lot of jobs. Build us something that we get to keep when you leave."

According to Mallyon, Riversdale wants to stimulate growth rather than build monuments.

"I've lived and worked in a number of mining towns," he said. "It's not our desire here to create a monument to mining or Riversdale. The economic model we've looked at is participative one."

"What we'd really like to do is foster 100 new businesses over the next 25 years that go on and employ people in others trades and skills that may support the mine initially but go on to bigger and better things," Mallyon said.

One resident argued against the dying community comment and claimed that Crowsnest Pass has the only growing classes in the Livingstone Range school division.

Riversdale submitted documents to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency in March 2015 that claimed economic benefits would flow west towards Sparwood and Fernie, but did not refer to Pincher Creek. It's possible workers could find housing in Cowley or Lundbreck.

Part of Riversdale's application will include an environmental impact assessment. Residents asked about air quality specifically regarding dust from the blasting and also how the company would monitor conditions, comply with environmental regulations and disseminate that information to the public.

"Our air-quality experts have looked at all of those guidelines and looked at the modelling results and have determined the project will absolutely be within the emissions (regulations). The concentrations will be less than what the guidelines actually are," said environmental consultant Dane McCoy.

He claimed most of the dust and large particles caused by blasting or digging quickly fall out of the air. Riversdale plans to blast from a few times a week to almost once daily and reduce dust spread at all stages of production.

"Throughout the project the design team has been looking at ways to minimize dust from the source, which is digging the coal and rock from the pit itself, to transporting it to the wash plant, and conveying it down to the highway and loading it," McCoy said.

The Grassy Mountain design has gone through several phases to prevent crossing the Blairmore Creek headwaters and the Gold Creek drainage.

"Part of what we're doing ... is trying to find out what the community is interested in and what kind of reporting mechanisms would be appropriate," McCoy said.

Margo Pagonis, who owns property near the mine's boundary, asked how much rock will be disturbed to obtain the coal and also about provincial and federal investigations of material washing into Gold Creek.

A Riversdale representative said there is a 9 to 1 ratio between disturbed rock and coal. To produce 4 million tonnes of coal per year they will remove approximately 36 million cubic metres of rock – or 900 million cubic metres over the 25 year lifespan of the mine.

Clark would not comment directly on the open investigation into the Gold Creek incident.

"There's a lot of very confounding factors relating not just to that singular incident, which is the focus of part of the investigation, but sort of the legacy that exists on that site and the difficulty in managing a former and now abandoned mine site," he said.

"When it occurred, when we were made aware that it happened, we immediately responded," Clark said. "Without even stopping to worry that it was an exposed natural coal seam that was the source of the material and that it was occurring on a ... Crown disposition still under Devon, we didn't stop to react."

The ecologist asserted that Riversdale installed silt fencing and started site mitigation efforts but that proper reclamation of the site is the best way to solve the issue.

"They determined that this was not a unique event, that this type of event has been happening in Gold Creek for some time," Clark said. "There's plenty of evidence to show... this is not an unusual event for Gold Creek but has never been reported previously."

Both Clark and Mallyon attempted to align the mine's activity to supporting the renewable energy industry because wind turbines are made from steel. Another commenter made an exaggerated comparison then that Riversdale would be supporting groups that use steel weapons.

According to the American Iron and Steel Institute the construction industry makes up 40 per cent of steel shipments, automotive is 26 per cent, energy is 10 per cent and national defense is 3 per cent. Other categories make up the remainder of the shipments.

The World Steel Association figures show that China is by far the largest steel producer and user.

Almost five train loads of coal will leave the loadout per week, accessing the mine by travelling underneath Highway 3 to join the rail lines.

All study and assessment documents will be available online once Riversdale submits their application. The company has been consulting with Aboriginal groups connected to the Grassy Mountain site, including the Piikani Nation.

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— Letters to the Editor —

Economical Survival

Dear Editor:

The Crowsnest Pass has it all...except for a sound economic foundation.

This is one of the nicest places in Alberta to live given the scenery, fresh air, and outdoor recreational opportunities of every type. The thing is, we have a limited industrial tax base, and a long list of capital and operational budget demands.

We need tax revenue and we need jobs in order to attract workers and young families that will make this community vibrant once again. When I go to events in neighboring towns there are

young people and kids everywhere. Here, we wonder if enrollment in the schools will be sufficient from one year to the next, we have trouble fielding soccer teams and hockey teams...before we moved here eight years ago, there was a Junior B hockey team...great entertainment!

But we continue to decline. We continue to see families move away. We continue to see businesses and major industries shut down. We can't take much more of this.

How often does an opportunity like Riversdale is presenting us with come along? Every 50 years or so? Their infor-

mation explains that they are doing everything possible to minimize and all but eliminate the dust, noise, and the industrial appearance of their project. They are determined to be a positive asset to this community and to contribute to our Town in many ways. The golfers appear to be happy and they are impacted more than anyone.

Consider what several hundred new jobs will do for our community: businesses will open, stores will thrive, real estate will be in demand, old houses will be replaced or renovated, empty lots in established neighborhoods will have

houses built on them as fast as people can build them.

This town needs to stop the nit picking, stop the selfish perspectives, and look at the big picture. We need this project and there is no big line up of alternative industries coming behind this one. Individuals, businesses, everyone needs to start vocalizing their support for this project to Riversdale, to the Municipal Council and to the Province. And our Municipal Council needs to stand up and lead the charge.

Brian Mertz
Crowsnest Pass

Riversdale files EIA with regulators

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

Last week Riversdale Resources Ltd., filed applications with the provincial and federal governments to move the Grassy Mountain Coal Project to the development stage.

"We filed our application and [Environmental Impact Assessment],"

said Cal Clark, Riversdale's Manager of Sustainable Development in an email. "The EIA should be posted on the provincial and federal websites this week."

In Aug. 2013, Benga Mining, a Riversdale Resources Ltd. subsidiary, purchased 35,000-acres of coal properties and freehold land assets, includ-

ing the Grassy Mountain Project, from Devon Energy and Consol Energy for a total of \$49.5 million US.

At peak production, the proposed mine would extract 4 million tonnes of coking coal - primarily used to manufacture steel - annually over 25 years.

The project will undergo a joint federal and

provincial review process, which is anticipated to take anywhere from 15 to 18 months. Permitting, licensing and construction are expected to take an additional 18-months.

If approved for development, Riversdale wants to have the Grassy Mountain mine deliver its first shipment of product in 2019.

Council updated on Grassy Mountain mine project

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Grassy Mountain coal seam.

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

With Riversdale Resources' proposal for the Grassy Mountain metallurgic coal mine before federal and provincial energy regulators, Environment Canada has said the project would hurt one of the community's most important resources: it's water.

"There will be degradation of water quality in both Blairmore and Gold Creeks, which will receive waste rock leach waters," said a document submitted by Environment Canada to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) to determine if a full environmental review for the project was required.

Long-term water concerns include the release of both sulphate and selenium into watercourses that have valued populations and critical habitat for westslope cutthroat trout, said the document.

Previous water quality sampling results have already found traces of selenium, mercury, copper and aluminum in those watercourses.

Lorne Fitch, an adjunct professor at the University of Calgary, who spent 35 years as a leading provincial fisheries biologist, said the documents are a warning of what mining, if permitted, would do to Blairmore and Gold Creeks and the Crowsnest River.

"If this development goes ahead, for all intents and purposes we will see the fish populations of both streams decline and for threatened cutthroat trout probably disappear," said Fitch. "This is based on serious, severe changes in physical habitat, extreme sedimentation, a variety of water quality perturbations and water removal from the system."

At a special council meeting on Nov. 25, Cal Clark, Riversdale's manager of sustainable development, commented on the possibility of selenium contamination from the Grassy Mountain mine.

The Grassy Mountain mine would be based in the same geological formation as Teck Resources' Elk Valley mines and Environment Canada has stated that, "any predictive water quality modeling may possibly utilize release rates derived for the Elk Valley mines."

But Clark said Selenium would not be as large an issue as it has been for Teck Resources, which has invested heavily in a water treatment plan.

continued below ...



“While selenium has been noted in our assessment and we are doing work around selenium, the background levels of selenium and the expected issue at Grassy Mountain is not as bad as what they have at Teck,” said Clark.

Riversdale has no plans to build water treatment facilities for the Grassy Mountain project, as Teck has for their projects, but the company is, “looking at options to monitor the selenium levels,” said Clark.

“I can’t answer whether [a water treatment facility] will be a requirement of this project, or not,” he added. “But the design we have for our pits and managing selenium should be quite effective and won’t require major capital investment.”

As part of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, Teck is investing about \$600 million over a five-year period on the installation of water diversions and water treatment facilities to address the management of selenium and other substances released by mining activities throughout the Elk Valley watershed. That amount includes about \$120 million invested to build a water treatment facility at Line Creek Operations.

Aside from Line Creek Operations, Teck has built water treatment facilities at a number of their Elk Valley Operations, including one at Fording River Operations, planned for 2018 and it is anticipated another will be necessary at Elkview Operations.

Selenium is a mineral element found naturally in most soils. It is being released in levels dangerous to aquatic life in the Elk Valley by huge piles of waste rock produced by coal mining.

The selenium problem is not thought to pose any human health risks, although last year Sparwood had to temporarily close one of its drinking water wells because selenium levels exceeded drinking-water standards.

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Riversdale held an open house on the Grassy Mountain project on Oct. 29 at the MDM Centre in Bellevue. An estimated 200 people were present, 146 signed-in and 64 completed exit surveys. The results showed that 30 respondents, or about 47 per cent, want the mine built, 14 respondents, or about 22 per cent, do not, while one respondent was a maybe and two gave no response.

Based on the survey, one of the top community concerns was water safety. Seventy-five per cent of respondents identified groundwater as a concern and 67 per cent identified surface water.

At the Nov. 25 meeting, council reiterated its support for the project. "What I'm hearing from the community is out community needs jobs," said Mayor Blair Painter.

"It's very important for our community, as jobs go, and to give our community some stability," he said. "But of course there are environmental concerns and the other concerns from our community regarding the location of the load-out, the noise, the dust, the lights, those kinds of issues. We've got to mitigate those things."

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Riverdale comments on threatened trout species issue

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Riversdale Resources Grassy Mountain project.

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

The federal government has declared the creeks near the proposed Grassy Mountain project critical habitat for Alberta’s threatened population of westslope cutthroat trout.

It is now illegal to damage the streams and surrounding riparian areas where Riversdale Resources is proposing to build a terraced coal mine but the company said the protection order would not affect the project.

“Protection of [the trout’s] critical habitat has always been part of our project planning,” said Cal Clark, Riversdale’s sustainable development manager. “Our project design and proposed mitigations consider the sensitivities of its habitat in Gold and Blairmore Creeks and include measures that will support the federal recovery plan for the species in these watersheds.”

The critical habitat order, published by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in a Nov. 20 issue of the Canada Gazette, prohibits the destruction of any part of the trout’s habitat. The prohibition pertains to any recreational, commercial or industrial use that could harm trout streams in the southern Alberta foothills.

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The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) celebrated the decision.

“We are very pleased with the announcement,” said Brittany Verbeek, the

association's conservation director. "It's a really important and legally required step towards the protection and recovery of westslope cutthroat trout."

The order was supposed to have been declared more than a year ago under the previous Conservative government. The minister didn't issue it and the AWA had been trying to force the federal government to issue the critical habitat order through litigation but the association said it would drop the lawsuit.

"We will be filing a discontinuance of the federal court proceedings," said Verbeek.

Genetically pure cutthroat trout occupy only a small fraction of their original range and exist as relatively small, disconnected populations. They are largely restricted to the Rocky Mountains and foothills in the uppermost reaches of rivers.

Scientists believe the fish now inhabit about five per cent of their original distribution.

Taken together, the Blairmore and Gold Creek watersheds are home to a number of species and contain two of the 51 known remaining populations of westslope cutthroat trout. Benga Mining, a Riversdale subsidiary, has submitted an application for the Grassy Mountain metallurgic coal mine to federal and provincial energy regulators to move the project into the development phase.

The two watersheds account for 11 per cent of total of the Crowsnest River watershed, which contains a third population of westslope cutthroat. Riversdale purchased the Grassy Mountain site in Aug. 2013. The proposed 12 square kilometre terraced coal mine on the top of Grassy Mountain north of Blairmore would extract 4 million tonnes of coking coal - primarily used to manufacture steel - annually over 25 years.

Riversdale's Conservation and Reclamation Plan said mining activities of the past are already having a negative impact on the local fisheries, especially during high flow events like the spring freshet and heavy rainfalls, when old detritus from mines washes into the creeks. According to the Aquatic Resources Baseline and Effects Assessment, prepared by Hatfield Consultants and submitted as part of the environmental impact assessment, the project would negatively affect aquatic habitat in the Gold and Blairmore Creek watersheds. The company has identified nine former mine sites on Riversdale's Grassy Mountain holdings many of which have not been cleaned up to modern standards.

The damage would be caused by the project's development footprint and changes to the flow regimes of both creeks, said the report. The EIA and supporting documents outline a number of steps the mine operator would take to adhere to a federal recovery plan for the trout that was finalized in 2014.

The project is predicted to impact 5,099 square metres of aquatic habitat, mostly in the Gold Creek watershed, which would see 4,211 square metres of habitat damaged because of reductions in the volume of water. The first lines of defense would be three surge ponds that would capture water exposed to waste rock dumps and five sedimentation ponds to hold runoff from the open pit coal mine.

The contaminated water would then be directed back into the open pit and buried in an oxygen free environment where bacteria would eventually break down some of the contaminants.

Other mitigating steps include mining offsets, which means protecting animals and plants in one area to make up for negative impacts in another. The report identified locations in the Gold Creek watershed, including Green Creek, Morin Creek and Caudron Creek, as potential areas to protect. Such protection would "offset" the damage done in other parts of the watersheds.

A program of technical work would need to be done to determine the amount and nature of required offsets, if the project is approved.

Riversdale would also partner with local organizations, including the Crowsnest Conservation Society, to implement a Gold Creek Stewardship Program with the goal of monitoring the stream and reclaiming it at the end of the mine's life.

But Lorne Fitch, a fisheries biologist, disagreed with Riverdale's assessment.

"It is the ultimate hubris to suggest one can successfully blast a mountain apart, dump the unwanted rock somewhere where it will not move, build roads that do not erode, never have a diesel fuel spill, or any other contaminant, transport the coal without dropping a fragment and do it in a way that doesn't impact the water and the fish," he said. "You cannot separate Gold and Blairmore creeks from their

water. And whatever happens in the watershed will flow downhill, following the immutable law of gravity. And, whatever engineered devices are installed to "mitigate" issues and separate the streams from mining activity will fail, some soon.

Anna Garleff

There are lots of ways to revitalize a community without negatively impacting the watersheds. People in the CNP are clever, resilient and innovative. Let's work together to find enduring eco-eco solutions (economic and ecological).

69 days ago

Carl Hunt

I'm not familiar with the Castle watershed or the proposed mine but I live, worked and tried to protect 'Threatened' Athabasca rainbow trout in the northern East Slopes, from habitat loss including the impacts of at least 1/2 dozen coal mines. The environmental protection promised by coal companies during the 'application' phase is not reflected during the production of coal or following reclamation. Coal mines have caused direct and permanent loss of fish producing trout streams and ongoing and increased sediment releases in many km of the Athabasca headwaters. Impacts include, selenium leaching and calcium hardening of the stream bed that reduces aquatic invertebrate production (fish food) and destruction of spawning beds. In 2013 the Obed Mine after closure 'accidentally' released 670,000 cubic meters of mine waste water, sediments, coal fines and toxic materials down Apetowun & Plante creek and the Athabasca River (charges pending). Once a mine is approved and operational, the promised industry and government environmental standards, with strict regulations, monitoring and enforcement, vary with the politics. Fish habitat destruction becomes irreversible collateral damage that is paid in real costs by future generations of Albertans. In the northern East Slopes coal mines are laying off workers. Your choice?

73 days ago

Reply

Margo

It is good to hear from the experiences of others. We must pay attention and not let the past be repeated. When they bring out 4 million tons of coal, they are blasting 40 million tons of rock per year for 25 years. The fine dust from that activity will go well beyond the creeks. It will travel east or where ever the winds carry it. These two creeks will carry the greatest burden but the finer more invisible damage will travel much further.

Also, Green Creek, Caudron Creek and Morin Creek are very isolated and have been very much protected by their isolation. How will adding protection to these areas offset the damage to the Grassy Mountain watershed? They should be protected but this will not offset the loss.

72 days ago

Steve Van leperen

Crowsnest area is so beautiful, the people are blessed that live there.

I fear the coal mine will become a cancer on the land.

74 days ago

Reply

Joe Crowsnest

"I fear the coal mine will become a cancer"

What do you think has been going on here for the last 100+ years? Grassy was a coal mine before, its not new. If you think its beautiful, thank the mines. They are the ones who made all the beautiful trails and paths you have hiked. The people are not blessed.....Many are coal miners.....

I fear you may have reproduced.

74 days ago

Reply

Kevin Turner

Difficult to take an anonymous comment seriously; it does make it safer to carry tales and insult people though. Who is this Joe Crowsnest?

73 days ago

Reply

Mark Milley

Why can't Joe reply anonymously Kevin? You

do it on your other pages

69 days ago

Reply

Kevin Turner

You keep saying that Mark, maybe one day it will be true, but not today. Didn't you notice how the commenter attempted drive people away from our community?

66 days ago

Reply

RJ Pisko

Joe Crowsnest is a 4th generation CNPer from a mining family background. Lots of folks in the Crowsnest Pass welcome the opportunity for 25 years of habitat damage, blasting, coal loadouts God knows where - protecting the project by arguing that it's "metallurgical coal" (so extraction technique must be harmless?), jobs (no one knows how many), and, and - a financial windfall for a foreign owned company - exploit Alberta natural resources. Riversdale doesn't have the best international reputation a a mining operation - just ask Rio Tinto about Riversdale in Mozambique. Joe Crowsnest is a conservative, clinging to the past - 100 years of the past, and the only way he can express his hate for change is to resort to personal insults, as he has no intelligent input towards a growing global problem. But I have heard that conservatives EMBRACE change - just not right now . . .

71 days ago

Reply

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THE FREE PRESS PRINT THIS

New coal mine project is in review process

By The Free Press

Published: **December 10, 2015 09:00 AM**

Updated: **December 10, 2015 09:359 AM**

A coal mine is set to begin construction in mid-2017 near the Crowsnest Pass. Riversdale Resources through its wholly owned subsidiary, Benga Mining, has applied for a permit to make a surface metallurgical coal mine, or open pit coal mine.

The project proposal consists of a mine and a coal processing plant. The processing plant will include an overland conveyor system and a new section of rail track.

The project is located in southwest Alberta, about seven kilometers north of Blairmore. The other three areas that the company is focusing on are Bellevue, Adanac and Lynx Creek.

Using a benchmark of four million tonnes per year, the company estimates that the mine lifespan is expected to be over two decades and begin in the late spring of 2019.

"The expected mine life is approximately 23 years, based on four million tonnes per year with operations expected to begin around second quarter of 2019 ramping up to full production within a year or two," said Cal Clark, Manager of Sustainable Development in an interview with *The Free Press*.

He went on to state some of the variables that may change the start date of the project. "Start date will depend on when we receive a regulatory decision and obtaining the necessary permitting to commence construction. At the moment, we expect to begin construction in the second or third quarter of 2017."

The regulatory review process is public. Riversdale Resources will hold more public events including information sessions.

"We expect to be holding a public information session in Sparwood in the second or third week of February according to the current regulatory review process timeline. The actual date will be confirmed toward the end of January," said Clark.

The mine will be producing a mid volatile hard coking coal. This product is most commonly used in the coke ovens of steelmakers, producing thin sheet products. Currently, Australia is the largest producer of hard coking coal.

"Grassy will join a handful of producers in Canada, USA and Australia supplying the seaborne

market for premium hard coking coals," said Steve Mallyon, Managing Director of Riversdale Resources. "Consequently hard coking coal attracts the highest premium and Riversdale believe Grassy, due to its low mining and processing costs, will be competitive with the large Australian producers who dominate the current market."

Over the project's lifespan, there are expected to be 1,050 jobs created. Clark believes 640 of these jobs will be in Alberta and 410 in British Columbia. The Crowsnest Pass area is expected to land 245 jobs and 155 in Sparwood, bringing younger families to these communities.

The coal industry is currently in a downward trend. Riversdale believes that this is one of the best times to start a new project because the initial start-up costs are at a lower rate than if coal was in a higher demand.

"Riversdale's team has tended to build mines during industry downturns as we find that the construction costs are significantly lower and there is less competition for equipment and specialist consultants," said Mallyon.

Find this article at:

<http://www.thefreepress.ca/news/361442001.html>

Riversdale updates MD Council about Grassy Mountain project

JOCELYN DOLL
Pincher Creek Echo



Top: Steve Mallyon, Riversdale's managing director addresses the audience in the MDM Centre in Bellevue on Oct. 29. Bottom: Resident look at draft documents from Riversdale's feasibility study and environmental impact assessment.

Benga Mining limited, a subsidiary of Riversdale Resources, filed their Coal Conservation Act application and environmental impact assessment for the Grassy Mountain coal project to the Alberta Energy Regulator on Nov. 10, 2015.

The application is now going through the multi-step federal review process. At the moment they are in the middle of the 45 day review period that allows time for public input.

Cal Clarke, manager of environmental sustainability for the project, updated MD council on the status of the project at the regular council meeting on Dec. 8.

"The community of Crownsnest Pass mayor and council... are currently filing a statement of concern saying how much they support the project and the reasons why," Clarke said.

Though the AER are calling the public submissions 'statements of concern,' Clarke wanted council to understand that it is concern about the decision not the project. So a person could be in favour of the project, but concerned that the AER will not approve it.

There will be many more opportunities for the public to voice their concerns about the impact of the project, but the review process can be stopped at anytime if the project is not deemed viable and environmentally sound, so he encouraged those who are in favour of the pro-

ject to voice their support early in the process. Impact Assessment. The next step is to request additional information from Riversdale. The 15 month clock will stop until the company has submitted the required paperwork. When they have all of the information they need, the panel will continue going through the review process.

Public information sessions are required. The panel will seek public input on the sufficiency of the Environmental Impact Assessment. If the assessment is sufficient there will be a public hearing to gather further information.

In the end, the federal minister will determine if the project will have significant negative impacts on the environment. If yes the governor in council will determine if the effects are justifiable, and then the federal minister will issue a decision statement. If the panel determines there will not be significant negative impacts, the process jumps right to the minister issuing a decision statement.

The proposed coal mine project consists of a mine life of about 24 years, as well as a new coal processing plant and a new section of rail track.

It is expected to produce four million clean tonnes of metallurgical coal per year by 2021.

If approved, construction will begin mid 2017.

To file a statement of concern send one copy of your statement to Riversdale at cal.clarke@riversources.com and one copy to ARC-Team@are.ca by Jan. 4, 2016.

ject to voice their support early in the process.

Clarke expects that the province will announce a hearing as well, if they do it will become a joint federal-provincial process.

The hearing will probably be in January or February, Clarke said. He expects a review panel will be appointed in February or March. Once the panel is appointed, they have 15 months to make the decision.

First they will review the application and the Environmental

Feedback from the Grassy Mountain open house in Oct.

JOCELYN DOLL
Pincher Creek Echo

Ground water, surface water and changes to community character were the top concerns of those that completed the feedback form at the Grassy Mountain coal mine open house on Oct. 29.

Riversdale resources included the feedback statistics in an information package to the MD council at the Dec. 8 meeting.

Around 200 people attended the open house, and 64 completed the feedback forms. Of those who filled in the forms, 30 support the project, no questions asked, 17 are in favour of the project but have concerns, and 14 are against the project. Only one was undecided, and two left that part of the form blank. Feedback specific to the suc-

cess of the open house was mostly positive. 84 per cent of the people who filled out the form thought the event was helpful to learn about the project, but only 64 per cent thought they got all of the information that they needed.

Of the 64 people that filled out feedback forms, only 57 of them identified any issues that they had with the impact of the project. As well as concern over water and community character, most people were concerned about health and well being of both the community and wildlife, reclamation of mined lands and economic development and employment.

At the moment the project is being reviewed by the federal government. There will be more open houses and opportunities for public input as the process continues.

www.pinchercreekecho.com

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<p>ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 816 Main Street 403-627-2804 PINCHER CREEK SUNDAY _____ 11 a.m. Cowley Service (St. Aidan's Anglican Church) ALL SERVICES _____ 10 a.m. Please note: No August Services</p>	<p>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS 1240 Wentworth Avenue 403-627-3841 Bishop Gordon Allan Young SACRAMENT MEETING _____ 10 a.m. PRIMARY _____ 11:20 a.m. RELIEF SOCIETY _____ 12:10 p.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL _____ 11:20 a.m. PRIESTHOOD _____ 12:10 p.m. YOUNG WOMEN _____ 12:10 p.m.</p>	<p>SPRINGRIDGE MENNONITE CHURCH 403-320-9056 Pastor Harold Schilk SUNDAY SCHOOL _____ 10 a.m. SERVICE _____ 11 a.m.</p>
<p>ST. MICHAEL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 958 Christie Avenue 403-627-3071 Father Silvano Vargas TUESDAY _____ 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9 a.m. Last 3 Fridays of the month at Vista Village First Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at Crestview Lodge Wheatson Mass - Sunday at noon from the May long weekend until Labor Day SATURDAY _____ 7 p.m. SUNDAY _____ 10 a.m.</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 637 Charlotte Street 403-627-4518 Reverend Barry Briener DAILY WORSHIP _____ 10:30 a.m. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM, YOUTH GROUP AND BIBLE STUDIES Visitors Welcome! Website: www.firstbaptistpc.ca</p>	<p>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 893 East Avenue 403-627-4544 Reverend Andrew Craig SUNDAY SCHOOL and BIBLE STUDY _____ 10 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE _____ 11 a.m. COMMUNION 1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS</p>
<p>CHINOOK BIBLE CHURCH 1255 Bev McLachlin Drive 403-627-5111 Pastor Dave Goff Daily at 10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY prayer meeting at 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>ABUNDANT SPRINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH (PAC) 968 Kettles Street 403-627-3653 Pastor Stephen Valcourt SUNDAY SERVICE _____ 10:30am CHILDREN'S PROGRAM DURING SERVICE All Are Welcome! Website: www.abundantsprings.church</p>	<p>PINCHER CREEK UNITED CHURCH 972 Police Avenue 403-627-3734 SUNDAY WORSHIP PINCHER CREEK _____ 11 a.m. SERVICE IN COWLEY - 1st, 2nd & 4th SUNDAY _____ 9:30 a.m. Mountain Mill - 3rd SUNDAY _____ 1:30 p.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL Website: http://pcreeku.chawwebpace.ca</p>
<p>CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST Mennonite - 403-627-2466 Pastor Gene Esau SUNDAY SCHOOL and BIBLE CLASS _____ 10 a.m. SERVICE _____ 10:45 a.m.</p>	<p>BAHAI FAITH 403-627-2291 Donna Zeller Join us for services, "Ye are the fruits of one tree and the leaves of one branch," Bahai-faith. Introductory Sessions every Friday at 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Churches: Please phone in any changes to the Pincher Creek Echo 403-627-3252 Courtesy of the Pincher Creek Echo</p>
<p>FISHBURN UNITED CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICE _____ Dec 20, 7 pm</p>		



John Stoesser photos/Pincher Creek Echo



Pincher Creek Agencies Wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years

Our Holiday Hours:

- Dec. 24 9-12
- Dec. 25 Closed
- Dec. 26 Closed
- Dec. 31 9-5
- Jan. 1 Closed



Riverdale comments on threatened trout species issue

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Riversdale Resources Grassy Mountain project.

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

The federal government has declared the creeks near the proposed Grassy Mountain project critical habitat for Alberta's threatened population of westslope cutthroat trout.

It is now illegal to damage the streams and surrounding riparian areas where Riversdale Resources is proposing to build a terraced coal mine but the company said the protection order would not affect the project.

"Protection of [the trout's] critical habitat has always been part of our project planning," said Cal Clark, Riversdale's sustainable development manager. "Our project design and proposed mitigations consider the sensitivities of its habitat in Gold and Blairmore Creeks and include measures that will support the federal recovery plan for the species in these watersheds."

The critical habitat order, published by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in a Nov. 20 issue of the Canada Gazette, prohibits the destruction of any part of the trout's habitat. The prohibition pertains to any recreational, commercial or industrial use that could harm trout streams in the southern Alberta foothills.

continued below ...

The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) celebrated the decision.

"We are very pleased with the announcement," said Brittany Verbeek, the

conservation director. "It's a really important and legally required step towards the protection and recovery of westslope cutthroat trout."

The order was supposed to have been declared more than a year ago under the previous Conservative government. The minister didn't issue it and the AWA had been trying to force the federal government to issue the critical habitat order through litigation but the association said it would drop the lawsuit.

"We will be filing a discontinuance of the federal court proceedings," said Verbeek.

Genetically pure cutthroat trout occupy only a small fraction of their original range and exist as relatively small, disconnected populations. They are largely restricted to the Rocky Mountains and foothills in the uppermost reaches of rivers.

Scientists believe the fish now inhabit about five per cent of their original distribution.

Taken together, the Blairmore and Gold Creek watersheds are home to a number of westslope cutthroat trout. Benga Mining, a Riversdale subsidiary, has submitted an application for the Grassy Mountain metallurgic coal mine to federal and provincial energy regulators to move the project into the development phase.

The two watersheds account for 11 per cent of total of the Crowsnest River watershed. Riversdale purchased the Grassy Mountain site in Aug. 2013. The proposed 12 square kilometre terraced coal mine on the top of Grassy Mountain north of Blairmore would extract 4 million tonnes of coking coal - primarily used to manufacture steel - annually over 25 years. According to the Aquatic Resources Baseline and Effects Assessment, prepared by Hatfield Consultants and submitted as part of the environmental impact assessment, the project would negatively affect aquatic habitat in the Gold and Blairmore Creek watersheds. The company has identified nine former mine sites on Riversdale's Grassy Mountain holdings many of which have not been cleaned up to modern standards.

The damage would be caused by the project's development footprint and changes to the flow regimes of both creeks, said the report. The EIA and supporting documents outline a number of steps the mine operator would take to adhere to a federal recovery plan for the trout that was finalized in 2014.

The project is predicted to impact 5,099 square metres of aquatic habitat, mostly in the Gold Creek watershed, which would see 4,211 square metres of habitat damaged. The first lines of defense would be three surge ponds that would capture water because of reductions in the volume of water exposed to waste rock dumps and five sedimentation ponds to hold runoff from the open pit coal mine.

The contaminated water would then be directed back into the open pit and buried in an oxygen free environment where bacteria would eventually break down some of the contaminants.

Other mitigating steps include mining offsets, which means protecting animals and plants in one area to make up for negative impacts in another. The report identified locations in the Gold Creek watershed, including Green Creek, Morin Creek and Caudron Creek, as potential areas to protect. Such protection would "offset" the damage done in other parts of the watersheds.

A program of technical work would need to be done to determine the amount and nature of required offsets, if the project is approved.

Riversdale would also partner with local organizations, including the Crowsnest Conservation Society, to implement a Gold Creek Stewardship Program with the goal of monitoring the stream and reclaiming it at the end of the mine's life.

But Lorne Fitch, a fisheries biologist, disagreed with Riverdale's assessment.

"It is the ultimate hubris to suggest one can successfully blast a mountain apart, dump the unwanted rock somewhere where it will not move, build roads that do not erode, never have a diesel fuel spill, or any other contaminant, transport the coal without dropping a fragment and do it in a way that doesn't impact the water and the fish," he said. "You cannot separate Gold and Blairmore creeks from their

water. Even whatever happens in the watershed will flow downhill, following the immutable law of gravity. And, whatever engineered devices are installed to "mitigate" issues and separate the streams from mining activity will fail, some soon.

3 Comments

Anna Garleff

There are lots of ways to revitalize a community without negatively impacting the watersheds. People in the CNP are clever, resilient and innovative. Let's work together to find enduring eco-eco solutions (economic and ecological).

2 days ago

Reply

Carl Hunt

I'm not familiar with the Castle watershed or the proposed mine but I live, worked and tried to protect 'Threatened' Athabasca rainbow trout in the northern East Slopes, from habitat loss including the impacts of at least 1/2 dozen coal mines. The environmental protection promised by coal companies during the 'application' phase is not reflected during the production of coal or following reclamation. Coal mines have caused direct and permanent loss of fish producing trout streams and ongoing and increased sediment releases in many km of the Athabasca headwaters. Impacts include, selenium leaching and calcium hardening of the stream bed that reduces aquatic invertebrate production (fish food) and destruction of spawning beds. In 2013 the Obed Mine after closure 'accidentally' released 670,000 cubic meters of mine waste water, sediments, coal fines and toxic materials down Apetowun & Plante creek and the Athabasca River (charges pending).

Once a mine is approved and operational, the promised industry and government environmental standards, with strict regulations, monitoring and enforcement, vary with the politics. Fish habitat destruction becomes irreversible collateral damage that is paid in real costs by future generations of Albertans. In the northern East Slopes coal mines are laying off workers. Your choice?

6 days ago

Reply

Margo

It is good to hear from the experiences of others. We must pay attention and not let the past be repeated. When they bring out 4 million tons of coal, they are blasting 40 million tons of rock per year for 25 years. The fine dust from that activity will go well beyond the creeks, It will travel east or where ever the winds carry it. These two creeks will carry the greatest burden but the finer more invisible damage will travel much further.

Also, Green Creek, Caudron Creek and Morin Creek are very isolated and have been very much protected by their isolation. How will adding protection to these areas offset the damage to the Grassy Mountain watershed? They should be protected but this will not offset the loss.

6 days ago

Reply

Steve Van Ieperen

Crowsnest area is so beautiful, the people are blessed that live there.

I fear the coal mine will become a cancer on the land.

7 days ago

Reply

Joe Crowsnest

"I fear the coal mine will become a cancer"

What do you think has been going on here for the last 100+ years? Grassy was a coal mine before, its not new. If you think its beautiful, thank the mines. They are the ones who made all the beautiful trails and paths you have hiked. The people are not blessed.....Many are coal miners.....

I fear you may have reproduced.

7 days ago

Reply

Kevin Turner

Difficult to take an anonymous comment seriously; it does make it safer to carry tales and insult people though. Who is this Joe Crowsnest?

6 days ago

Reply

Mark Milley

Why can't Joe reply anonymously Kevin? You do it on your other pages

2 days ago

Reply

RJ Pisko

Joe Crowsnest is a 4th generation CNPer from a mining family background. Lots of folks in the Crowsnest Pass welcome the opportunity for 25 years of habitat damage, blasting, coal loadouts God knows where - protecting the project by arguing that it's "metallurgical coal" (so extraction technique must be harmless?), jobs (no one knows how many), and, and - a financial windfall for a foreign owned company - exploit Alberta natural resources. Riversdale doesn't have the best international reputation a a mining operation - just ask Rio Tinto about Riversdale in Mozambique. Joe Crowsnest is a conservative, clinging to the past - 100 years of the past, and the only way he can express his hate for change is to resort to personal insults, as he has no intelligent input towards a growing global problem. But I have heard that conservatives EMBRACE change - just not right now . . .

5 days ago

Reply

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December 9th ~ Vol. 85 No. 48

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Riversdale Resources public update

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Archive photo

Grassy mountain coal seam.

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

Last year, Benga Mining, a subsidiary of Riversdale Resources, filed applications for provincial and federal approval of the Grassy Mountain Coal Mine project. The application package included an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

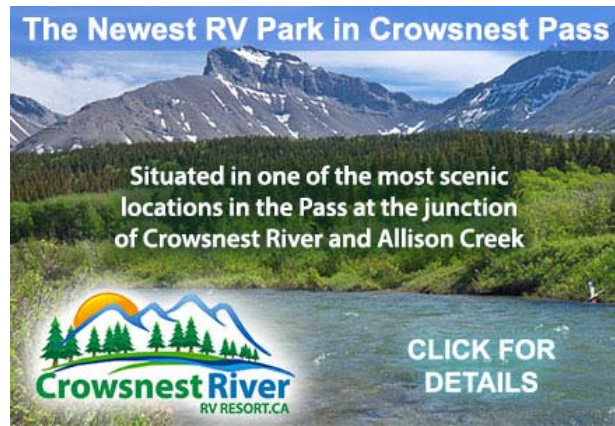
On Jan. 25, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) informed Riversdale Resources that the impact assessment was incomplete. The review process was paused until the deficiencies identified were addressed.

The document, now available on the AER website, said that the mine site and coal processing plant applications remain under review. It outlined 24 areas where the impact assessment fell short.

In some cases terms used in the EIA were unclear or incomplete. In other cases the AER said there wasn't enough information.

The document outlined data gaps on the impact the mine could have on the community's fisheries. Riversdale needs to supply more data on the anticipated changes in biodiversity and impact on regional ecosystems that the mine project will have as well as more specific scientific data and discussion revolving around living organisms.

continued below ...



On May 25, Riversdale Resources updated council on the Grassy Mountain Coal Project and said the EIA would be resubmitted on July 29. "We're about seven months delayed," said Riversdale's community liaison Keith Bott.

Cal Clark, Riversdale's manager of sustainable development, said the resubmitted EIA would not include data on the community's fisheries including information on the fish populations of Blairmore and Gold Creeks.

"We have a plan to submit that data post EIA update," said Clark. "That additional information will be coming in around Christmas."

The AER is aware that Riversdale's fisheries studies will not be completed at the time they resubmit their EIA.

AER spokesperson Monica Hermary said her organization, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Alberta Environment and Parks have been working with Riversdale to address fisheries concerns, including concerns related to the habitat of the west slope cutthroat trout.

The federal government has declared the creeks near the proposed Grassy Mountain project critical habitat for Alberta's threatened population of westslope cutthroat trout.

continued below ...

The critical habitat order, published by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in a November 2015 issue of the Canada Gazette, prohibits the destruction of any part of the trout's habitat. The prohibition pertains to any recreational, commercial or industrial use that could harm trout streams in the southern Alberta foothills.

Fisheries biologist Lorne Fitch explained that a fisheries survey provides a snapshot of the range of natural variability within an ecosystem including how populations fluctuate within a year and between years.

“You can’t do it in a few months,” said Fitch. “The window you select becomes too narrow to tell the story about what the system is and what the critters are doing to fit into that system.”

“If they want to do this in a legitimate way, they probably should have started a couple years ago to accumulate the information that would provide the regulator with the sense that they had done a credible job,” he added.

Another issue not addressed in the EIA was the impact that the relocation of nine holes of the golf course as well as the clubhouse would have on the community. Riversdale has proposed swapping land with the golf course in order to relocate the nine holes but did not address the fact that some of the land is Crown land.

Golf course superintendent Waren Gietz will be talking about the re-configuration of the Crowsnest Pass Golf and Country Club at a Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on June 8.

In addition to the EIA, Riversdale needs to submit a number of other applications related to the project before the AER can conduct a full review. This includes applications under the Water Act, Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Coal Conservation Act, and Public Lands Act.

2 Comments

Marilyn Milley

I remembering hearing that Blairmore was to be considered high risk in regards to the coal loading facility. Does that mean that with the westerly winds we will be struggling with coal dust blowing down the valley from Tim Horton's all the way to east Blairmore? If so, I hope the mine never gets the green light.

57 minutes 39 seconds ago

[Reply](#)

Sam

There is no viable way this project will not adversely effect Blairmore Creek, Gold Creek, and the Crowsnest River. Good luck on Riversdale's attempt to spin this one.

11 hours 9 minutes ago

[Reply](#)

Leave your comment here

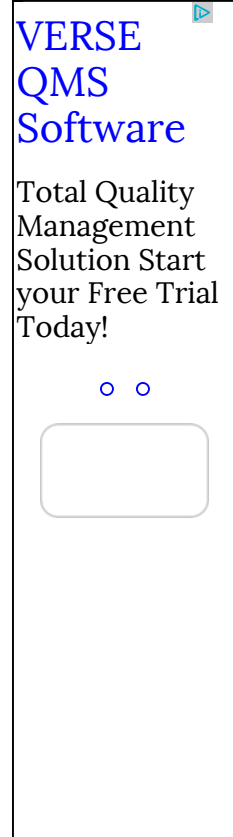
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Benefits of proposed Pass mine touted

J.W. Schnarr

LETHBRIDGE HERALD

jwschnarr@lethbridgeherald.com

A mining operation on Grassy Mountain in the Crowsnest Pass could be an economic windfall, company representative Cal Clark told a full SACPA crowd Thursday, but not everyone in attendance was sure the project is worth the potential environmental damage to the area.

Cal Clark, manager of sustainable development at Riversdale Resources (Benga Mining Ltd.), spoke about the potential economic impacts of the coal industry in the Crowsnest Pass. He said most of the people in the Crowsnest Pass area support the project, but there are also some who oppose it.

“The reality is there’s certainly a component of the population who are absolutely opposed,” he said. “My role is to try and find that common ground and shared value. All that information then goes in to the regulator, and they decide whether or not the project can proceed.”

Lorne Fitch, a professional biologist who has worked in the Crowsnest Pass area, said the legacy of coal mining operations continue to provide problems to water quality and fish to this day. The last mining operation on Grassy Mountain ceased operation in the 1960s.

“I’m not sure another coal mine, no matter how well-planned or executed, is going to benefit us in terms of water quality or threatened fish species.

Fitch said the blasting and movement of material that occurs in mining operations, particularly in surface mining, results in additional sediment making its way to rivers and streams where it fills space in gravel beds and hardens, making it difficult for fish to spawn.

“Every one of those sediment particles is a water quality concern for people like me, who lives downstream,” he said.

The Grassy Mountain coal project could provide four million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year to markets mainly in Asia and South America. The material is a vital component in steel production.

“We need steel,” he said. “Regardless of alternative energy, it takes 88 tonnes of coal to produce one wind turbine.

“You need to understand there is a trade-off here.”

All that material means jobs and money for local economies.

The project could bring in 395 jobs, but indirectly, those numbers could be as high as 1,000. There is also substantial economic benefit available to local municipalities, and to the federal and provincial governments through tax revenue.

“Jobs are important to people, and livelihoods, and families,” Clark said. “There’s a history here. Coal mining has been in the valley and been a major component of its economy for over 100 years. Even today.”

“This is an opportunity to maybe revive some of that legacy.”

But Fitch said the difference between building tours and support industry is that resource extraction projects are often subject to boom and bust cycles based on the markets, while tourism is a more stable way to build the economy.

“What does the Crowsnest Pass want?” he asked. “Another boom, followed by another bust? Or does it want stability?”

“You can’t have both.”

“It’s all about balance,” said Clark. “And the regulatory regime in Alberta and Canada is probably amongst the best in the world.”

“A lot of work goes into evaluating and coming up to a decision on whether a project will proceed or not. It includes a lot of public involvement.”

“I think we need to have an embargo on the word ‘balance,’” Fitch said. “You can’t have a coal mine blasting off a mountaintop, and still have all of these other tourism and economic endeavours going on, as well as ecological health and integrity.”

A national media story in September last year reported Benga Mining Limited, operating as Riverside Resources, was under investigation for possible environmental infractions over damage caused to a spawning area for endangered pure-strain West Slope cutthroat trout from the possible release of coal into Gold Creek, and then into Crowsnest River.

A decision from Alberta’s energy regulator may not be coming until 2017.

al and Opinions

Community Update

Spills on Gold Creek

Dear Editor:

This letter to the Editor contains information, and I have steered away from adding my opinions. The intent is to inform people about an event that occurred on Gold Creek this past summer that is apparently not widely known.

Re the spills of coal slag and other materials into Gold Creek in July: I have fished Gold Creek for over 20 years, at least 2 times per year, and keep detailed notes. It has always had a prolific population of cutthroat trout. This summer I

fished it July 23, under ideal low water conditions for seeing trout. I was alarmed by the lack of fish, so I did a detailed visual survey, finding only 1 cutthroat trout in a lengthy stretch of stream that normally would have 100 visible trout. After filing a report, I learned about the spill that had occurred off Grassy Mountain. I returned with another observer on August 7 to a different stretch of the stream. Working in tandem, we found only 3 trout in a stretch of stream that would nor-

mally contain 60 visible trout. I filed detailed reports with Fish & Wildlife.

Some other anglers apparently fished Gold Creek this past summer and reported catching no fish to the Crowsnest Angler fly shop in Bellevue.

Benga Mining is currently being investigated by DFO for their activities on Grassy Mountain that may have contributed to the spills of coal waste and other materials into Gold Creek.

For anyone who cares to read Benga's lengthy application to AER for the

proposed mine, a good place to find a summary of the proposed mine boundaries and features can be found in Volume 4, Consultant report #6-Aquatic Resources (Hatfield Consultants). In that report, Figure 2 Local Study Area shows the "ultimate pit outline" which proposes to mine out and remove portions of some tributaries to Gold Creek and place sediment ponds on other tributaries.

I would like to comment on the report, but this letter is intended to be information only.....

Jim Rennie

BRICKS & Bouquets

This is your column, THE READERS, use it but please don't abuse it. All Bricks & Bouquets are expressions from OUR READERS and do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of THIS newspaper. If you wish to expressly thank someone, please use our CARD OF THANKS section of this newspaper. We appreciate you making this column a success, and keep sending us your Bricks and Bouquets. All Bricks and Bouquets are kept on file at the Pass Herald.

BOUQUETS - To the miserable, cantankerous, crotchety old hag who accosts families and kids during public skating. We'd send a brick but it's not what you need. My four year old has prayed every day since we met you that God would put some joy in your heart.

BOUQUETS - To Jay Yanota for scraping the ice and snow off of the previously precarious stairs down to the bridge

Australian Day Fundraiser for Pass

What has more kangaroos than people, deadly snakes and its own rules for football? Australia. And on Jan. 23, the-land-down-under was celebrated during Riversdale Resources' annual Australia Day celebration, which raised funds to buy computers for Horace Allen School.

The evening featured a live auction, which featured a Didgeridoo, works of art, tickets to a Calgary Flames game and a hockey stick autographed by the Calgary Hitmen. Dinner was catered by Bamboo Bistro and Crowsnest Pass Fire/Rescue worked the bar, providing several varieties of beer and wine.

The Chevelles provided live entertainment.

Left to right: Dancing to the Chevelles, Darcy Wakaluk and Peter Murray auctioning Calgary Hitmen memorabilia and Peter Murray auctioning off a Didgeridoo.

John Kinnear and Ezra Black photos



Make the switch.

Old smoky comes home to Pass

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Ezra Black Photo

Top row: Workers from Mammoet in Pincher Creek and from Triple T Trucking in Claresholm.

Bottom row (from left to right): Keith Bott, Tom Houda, Ronald Hruby, Rudy Pagnucco, Elaine Hruby, Billy Houda, Terry Vossler, Terry Barlow, Ken Brands, and John Kinnear.

EZRA BLACK Pass Herald Reporter

When coal was king and a summer student could make a quick buck underground, mining historian and the Herald's very own feature columnist John Kinnear was paying his way through college hauling coal out of the Vicary Mine north of Coleman in a Hunslet Diesel Locomotive.

He took many trips in the Hunslet, hauling 17 coal cars at a time, from deep underground up to the surface.

Last week, Kinnear helped the Hunslet take another trip from a yard in Fernie to the Bellevue Underground Mine, to which it's been donated.

"I thought it would be more appropriate if it were brought back to its roots here in the Pass," said Kinnear.

On Jan. 22, the move was completed and the Hunslet was deposited on a set of original tracks just outside the entrance to the Bellevue mine. Museum volunteers, staff and former coal miners were soon gathered around the machine.

Bellevue Underground Mine executive director Elaine Hruby said the 10.5-ton locomotive is worth well more than its weight.

"Beyond being something new and special for our collection it's a symbol of our culture and history," she said. "For the guys waiting for it to come in, it's memories: their grandfathers in the mine and their roots in our community, which is coal mining."

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Riversdale Resources coordinated with Mammoet Equipment and Tripple T Energy Services donated personnel and equipment needed to move the locomotive for no charge. The move would have cost \$25,000.

“You can see the Bellevue mine is really charged about having this hear,” said Keith Bott, Riversdale’s community liaison.

Kinnear spoke about receiving more than a few lungfuls of diesel exhaust working with “old smoky”.

The locomotives were outfitted with special diesel filters, which never worked properly, he said, giving the engine its nickname.

“You were always working in diesel exhaust but the mines had good strong ventilation which moved it downwind,” said Kinnear.

The two Hunslets had 65 horsepower and were flame-proof locomotives that were purchased second hand from West Canadian Collieries in Blairmore. They were originally from the British Isles.

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Instead of conventional air brakes like those of the Hudswell they had a large, ratcheted hand lever. It had two speeds, could go forward or reverse, had no clutch and spotty traction.

“When the tracks were wet, the wheels would spin just like the big steam locomotives,” said Kinnear. “On many occasions I had to toss rock dust underneath the wheels so they’d get grip. It would start out at a very low speed so you could literally walk alongside it and throw rock dust until you were off the slippery zone.”

After obtaining from the Vicary Mine, the pair were purchased with money from the Devonian Foundation by the City of Fernie and put on display there. But they were then retired to the city yards where they sat for many years, their wheels slowly sink

Comments

Conrad Huss

I drove the diesels myself in Vicary back in the sixties.

41 days ago

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January 27th ~ Vol. 85 No. 4

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Riversdale update, more information required for process

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Herald archive photo

Grassy Mountain coal seam.

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

The provincial energy regulator has suspended its review of Riversdale Resources' Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project citing deficiencies.

Benga Mining, a Riversdale Resources subsidiary, can re-submit their application once they address a list of deficiencies outlined by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) in a seven-page document.

"The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has determined that the Benga's Grassy Mountain Coal Project environmental impact assessment (EIA) report has major deficiencies and is not complete," said the document. "Benga may resubmit the EIA once the deficiencies have been addressed."

The document, now posted online, asks Riversdale to submit more information concerning conservation and reclamation, air quality, water management, socio-economic effects, fisheries, wildlife and other subjects.

Regarding water management, the AER wants more information about selenium concentrations at the proposed mine site. Selenium is a naturally occurring mineral found in waste rock that can be toxic in large amounts.

The uncertainty regarding selenium concentrations and how it would be controlled, both during operations and post closure, had not been adequately discussed, said the AER.

"Scientific justification has not been provided to support Benga's assumption that selenium levels are "about half" that of similar coals in the region," said the document. "Available literature indicates potential selenium attenuation efficiencies by biochemical reduction would typically be in the range of 85 per cent to 95 per cent. Benga's assumption of a 99 per cent reduction efficiency has not been scientifically referenced."

The document also said Riversdale needs to submit more information regarding their proposal to locate the coal load out facility on the community golf course because some of the course is Crown land.

continued below ...

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“The rail loading terminal is proposed to overlap the golf course. Some of the lands the golf course is using are Crown lands,” said the document. “While Benga presented a picture that they would simply “swap” lands they presently own with the golf course in order to re-locate 9 holes, they have not addressed the fact that some of those lands are Crown lands at present.”

The AER is also asking Riversdale submit a fully integrated project application package that includes the completed EIA and applications under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, the Public Lands Act, the Water Act, and the Coal Conservation Act.

In November 2015, Riversdale filed applications with the provincial and federal governments to move the Grassy Mountain Coal Project to the development stage.

The project is only one of its kind to undergo a joint federal and provincial review process by both the AER and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) since changes were made to both the AER’s structure and function and to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act in 2012. The process is anticipated to take anywhere from 15 to 18 months. Riversdale’s two applications submitted to the CEAA in conjunction with their EIA are still under review.

At a meeting on Jan. 27, Cal Clark, Riversdale’s manager of sustainable development, addressed council and a few citizens regarding the energy regulator’s decision.

He downplayed the language contained in the AER’s statement, saying it was ‘driven by process’ and that most of the identified deficiencies are not major.

“[The AER] did a preliminary review of the application,” he said. “They felt there were some information requirements that are missing for them to adequately make a decision, so they’ve asked us to resubmit the EIA or at least complete the information that they’re looking for.”

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Clark said he knew there were some gaps in the EIA but he had yet to have, “discussions with [the AER’s] technical people to discuss the deficiencies identified and to clarify the AER’s information requirement.”

Councillor Bill Kovach asked whether this would affect the timeline for the project.

Clark responded that that would, “depend on us and how quickly we can turn things around and submit the information they’re looking for but that it is not expected to affect the timeline.

Letters of concern or support still welcome.

The deadline to submit a statement of concern or a letter of support regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project was January 15, but Clark said “statements are welcome at any time up until the decision is made.”

The project received 29 statements of concern and 24 letters of support, which Clark said was “fairly balanced.”

Both statements of concern and support will be considered as part of the decision on the current applications. The AER will post, for public notice, any and all additional project applications under EPEA, the Water Act, the PLA, and the CCA once received.

Councillor Marlene Ancil asked what people were writing in their statements and letters.

“The major issues so far that have been raised are related to fish, water and water quality in particular, both ground water and surface water,” said Clark. “Dust, noise and then always the general impact, those are the project specific concerns.”

Clark also said he’s also received some statements of concern from people who have a broad dislike for the coal industry.

1 Comments

Sam

Come on people. Only 53 of you have written statements regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project. This Project is going to affect all aspects of the Pass and surrounding residents' lives for the foreseeable future. Speak up whether for or against.

19 days ago

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February 3rd ~ Vol. 85 No. 5

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NEWS LOCAL

Grassy Mountain EIA deemed incomplete



By Jocelyn Doll, Pincher Creek Echo
Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:14:56 MST AM



Grassy Mountain

In November Benga Mining, a subsidiary of Riversdale Resources, filed their application for provincial and federal approval of the Grassy Mountain Coal Mine project. The application package included an environmental impact assessment.

On Jan. 25, the Alberta Energy Regulator informed Riversdale Resources that their impact assessment was incomplete and that the review process has been paused until the deficiencies identified have been addressed.

The document, that is now available on the Alberta Energy Regulator website, said that the mine site and coal processing plant applications remain under review. It outlined 24 areas where the impact assessment fell short.

In some cases terms used in the EIA were unclear or incomplete. In other cases the AER said there wasn't enough information.

Data gaps in the conservation and reclamation section of the EIA include "Adequately characterizing the current land use capability... (and) an inventory of the pre- and post-disturbance land capability classes for the soils in both the Project Area and the Local Study Area." As well as describing the "volumetric analysis of soil quantity and handling processes needed to achieve the final reclaimed landscape and equivalent land capability."

The document also requires a more complete discussion of the anticipated changes in biodiversity and impact on regional ecosystems

that the mine project will have.

As well as more specific scientific data and discussion revolving around living organisms, sediment quality and air quality impact, the report calls for things like discussion with TECK about the overlapping labour force as well as mitigation of increased traffic on highway three, given the workforce split between Crowsnest Pass and Sparwood.

Impact on water was also a major concern. Riversdale will need to provide information about the potential impact the mine could have on Blairmore's drinking water supply, as well as mitigation and contingency plans revolving around the Potential Acid Generating Rock that was identified in the geological survey of the area.

Another issue not addressed in the EIA was the impact that the relocation nine holes of the golf course as well as the clubhouse will have. Riversdale has proposed 'swapping' land with the golf course in order to relocate the nine holes but did not address the fact that some of the land is crown land.

Altalink powerlines will also need to be re-located should the mining development be approved, and Riversdale did not fully address the impact of those relocations.


The AER also pointed out issues with the mapping of the land ownership of the proposed development area. The EIA does not provide detail as to how infrastructure in the area including well sites, pipelines and leased roads will be dealt with or how discussions around grazing leases will be resolved.

Riversdale will also be required to get a Historical Resources Clearance Letter from Alberta Culture.

Once the deficiencies in the EIA are addressed, the AER require Riversdale submit a project application package as well as the updated EIA. The package will include the necessary applications under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, the Public Lands Act, the Water Act and the Coal Conservation Act.

jocelyn.doll@sunmedia.ca

@echo_JDoll



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NEWS LOCAL

Riversdale updates CNP council on mine project



By Jocelyn Doll, Pincher Creek Echo

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:14:17 MST PM



Submitted photo

Progress on the Grassy Mountain Mine approval ground to a halt when the environmental impact assessment was deemed incomplete by both the Alberta Energy Regulator as well as the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency last month.

Keith Bott, the community liaison for Riversdale Resources, told Crowsnest Pass council on Wednesday that the company has nothing new to report on the progress they have made on completing the EIA, but that they should have progress to announce in the next week or two.

Bott also informed council that CEAA will be holding information sessions on April 5 in Pincher Creek at the Heritage Inn, on April 6 at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Sparwood, and on April 7 at the Elks Hall in Blairmore. The sessions will run from 2-4 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m. in all three locations.

Peter Murray, operations manager, took the floor to explain what the team has been up to at the site.

A drilling project that commenced at the beginning of January should be done within the next two weeks.

"We were expecting some surprises but everything seems to be basically the same right across the mine area," Murray said.

The company has also taken bulk samples in some areas to make sure the samples they took in the beginning are representative to the rest of the area. Murray said so far so good, but they are still waiting for some results.

The other part of the project that Murray addressed was the plans Riversdale is developing with the golf course, as nine holes will have to be relocated because of the mining project.

"We've put together a budget that we think is going to be appropriate moving forward," Murray said of the \$128,000 budget.

Despite the delay with the EIA, Riversdale predicts the same start up dates that they anticipated in 2017.

The next meeting between the CNP council and Riversdale will be March 30.

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@echo_JDoll

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Feasibility study underway for a new mine in Elk Valley

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Herald archive photo

Chunks of raw coal.

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

A private Australian company is looking to develop a metallurgical coal mine in the Elk Valley.

CanAus, a Canadian subsidiary of Brisbane, Australia based CoalMont, is in the process of assembling a feasibility study to develop the Michel Creek Coking Coal Project – Loop Ridge Mine about 15 kilometres southeast of Sparwood.

In a presentation to council on Feb. 16, John Pumphrey, Chief Operating Officer (COO) for CanAus Coal, said that at maximum production, the Loop Ridge Mine would yield about 3 million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year over a ten year mine life. The mine's footprint would be about 1000 hectares.

Pumphrey said an environmental assessment would be submitted in 2017 or 2018 with mine startup scheduled from 2020 to 2022. CanAus submitted a project description late last year.

The mine would employ about 300 people. Construction and startup would temporarily employ about 500 people.

The Michel Creek Coking Coal Project covers about 5000 hectares in B.C. with the coal licenses of Loop Ridge, Tent Mountain and Michel Head forming the core of the project.

continued below ...

Pumphrey said Michel Creek was conceived when metallurgical coal was selling for about US\$200 per tonne but that the plummeting price of metallurgical coal, which dipped to a low of US\$80 per tonne last year, have actually helped the project.

“We were fortunate to some degree that there was a slowdown,” he said. “It’s allowed us to access resources that probably would have been tough to get five years ago.”

Pumphrey had robust expectations for the project.

“Our team and investors are optimistic,” he said. “Everything turns around, there’s a cycle to every commodity.”

As reported in The Wall Street Journal, an Australia-based private equity firm Pacific Road Capital Management invested US\$10.2 million into CoalMont to develop metallurgical deposits in Canada in 2013. Pacific Road has about a 35 per cent stake in CoalMont’s Canadian metallurgical coal projects.

1 Comments

tom taylor
 they cometh and they coeth
 16 hours 7 minutes ago
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Line Creek water treatment facility

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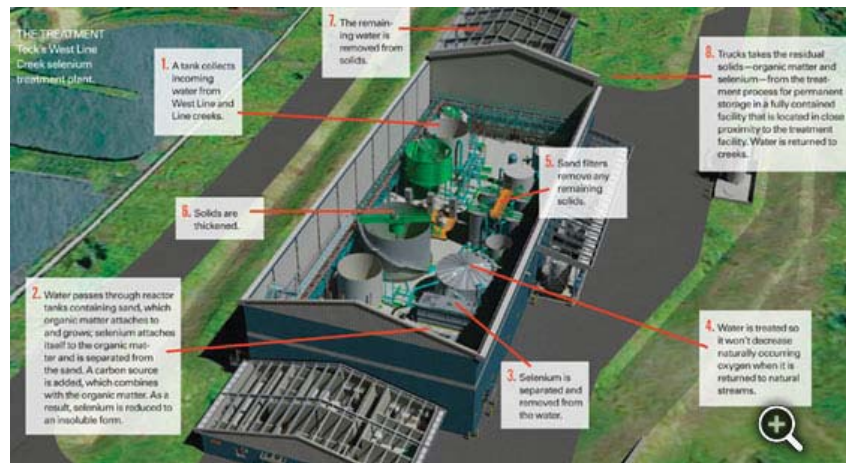
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EZRA BLACK Pass Herald Reporter

On Feb. 17, Teck announced that its first water treatment facility in the Elk Valley had completed commissioning and was achieving 100 per cent of its design target for reducing selenium concentrations in water.

The West Line Creek Active Water Treatment Facility, located at Teck's Line Creek Operations was constructed to remove selenium as well as nitrate from mine affected water as part of Teck's work to implement the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan.

The goal of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan is to stabilize and reverse the increasing levels of selenium and other harmful substances entering the Elk River watershed due to decades of mining.

The facility cost about \$120 million and can treat up to 7,500 cubic metres of water per day – enough to fill three Olympic-sized swimming pools. It is part of Teck's \$600-million plan to address the threat to westslope cutthroat trout and other aquatic life.

The West Line Creek Active Water Treatment Facility treats water drawn in from Line Creek and West Line Creek at the Line Creek Operations site. Biological treatment technology is used to turn selenium into a solid form that can be extracted from the water and disposed of in at an onsite waste facility.

The facility is designed to reduce selenium concentrations by about 96 per cent in treated water and nitrate concentrations by about 99 per cent.

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In July 2014 when it was first put into service, the West Line Creek Facility was responsible for a fish kill when its biological treatment technology malfunctioned.

A total of 74 dead fish were found near the facility from October 16 to November 5, 2014.

“We accept responsibility for this unfortunate occurrence and are now working to restart the facility and implement measures to prevent a reoccurrence,” said Robin Sheremeta, Vice President of Coal Operations in a statement.” Teck is committed to learning from this incident and implementing the measures necessary to maintain water quality and aquatic health in the Elk River watershed.”

An internal review of the incident found the facility had been discharging water containing substances that should normally have been managed by the biological treatment process including nitrite, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and carbohydrates.

Nic Milligan, manager of community and aboriginal affairs for Teck, said a water treatment facility at Fording River Operations is the next project identified under the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan. It is anticipated that another water treatment facility will be necessary at Elkview Operations following that.

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Quad squad calls for collaboration with conservationists

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EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

As conservationists look to restrict the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies, a local organization is preaching collaboration between quadders and environmentalists.

A Jan. 25 news release co-signed by seven individuals representing a coalition of conservation groups asked the provincial government to limit the use of OHVs from protected areas on the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

The groups asked that OHVs be banned from the Castle Wilderness Area, which the province announced in September would be designated a provincial park and provincial wildland area.

They recommend permanently closing trails near westslope cutthroat trout habitat, which received an emergency federal habitat protection order in November. The critical habitat order prohibits the destruction of the native trout's habitat.

The groups who issued the statement include the Alberta Wilderness Association, the Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition, the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, the Ghost Valley Community and the West Athabasca Bioregional Society.

In a Feb. 19 reply, Gary Clark, president of the Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad, acknowledged the need for greater protection of sensitive lands but fears conservationists are pushing for a total ban of OHVs from the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies, which he called "an unfortunate and unnecessary solution."

Clark acknowledged that many existing trails were built without consideration for the environment.

"It is unfortunate that the majority of the trails were built years ago, most of them because they were old logging or mining roads which have been incorporated into the present trail systems without concerns to the environment," said Clark "We, along with Environment and Parks, are working on fixing those problems."

In an October 2015 interview, Clark said there are approximately 500 kilometres of trail and roughly 30 quad bridges in the Castle area alone.

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Clark called for collaboration between conservationists and OHV users.

“We are all working together in a common goal to improve what we are already doing, to protect and enhance our back country,” he said.

He pointed to the Quad Squad’s decades of bridge building to keep OHVs out of sensitive areas, a campaign started by the groups founding members.

“They had the foresight to realize that OHVs were causing damage to the environment when they went through waterways, so they came up with a plan,” said Clark. “Raise money, and use the clubs’ membership on a volunteer basis to build bridges over the waterways so that they were not crossing streams and adding sediments to the water. They did this not because they did not wish to get their feet wet, but because of environmental and fish habitat issues. They were proactive and giving back to the environment.”

The Quad Squad has applied for permission to add two new bridges in the Lille Valley area this spring, which will cross pure strain westslope cutthroat trout streams.

Clark emphasized the economic importance of the province’s recreational vehicle industry and said the over 114,000 OHVs registered in Alberta contribute \$2 billion in equipment, camping accessories and related spending.

He ended his statement with a call for OHV users to stay out of streams and sensitive areas.

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“It is extremely important that anyone who uses the waterways knows, that every time they enter, ford, run up and down streams, or wash quads in the streams they stir up sediment. Sediment affects the survival of fish and their habitat by filling in

Comments
the... create problems during hatching for the young fish to get through the sediment, it covers the food the fish eat, it covers sunlight so plants cannot grow and it fills in the ponds making the water run faster taking away rest areas for the fish," he said.

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Riversdale Resources public update



Archive photo

Grassy mountain coal seam.

EZRA BLACK Pass Herald Reporter

Last year, Benga Mining, a subsidiary of Riversdale Resources, filed applications for provincial and federal approval of the Grassy Mountain Coal Mine project. The application package included an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

On Jan. 25, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) informed Riversdale Resources that the impact assessment was incomplete. The review process was paused until the deficiencies identified were addressed.

The document, now available on the AER website, said that the mine site and coal processing plant applications remain under review. It outlined 24 areas where the impact assessment fell short.

In some cases terms used in the EIA were unclear or incomplete. In other cases the AER said there wasn't enough information.

The document outlined data gaps on the impact the mine could have on the community's fisheries. Riversdale needs to supply more data on the anticipated changes in biodiversity and impact on regional ecosystems that the mine project will have as well as more specific scientific data and discussion revolving around living organisms.

continued below ...

The Newest RV Park in Crowsnest Pass

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On May 25, Riversdale Resources updated council on the Grassy Mountain Coal Project and said the EIA would be resubmitted on July 29.

“We’re about seven months delayed,” said Riversdale’s community liaison Keith Bott.

Cal Clark, Riversdale’s manager of sustainable development, said the resubmitted EIA would not include data on the community’s fisheries including information on the fish populations of Blairmore and Gold Creeks.

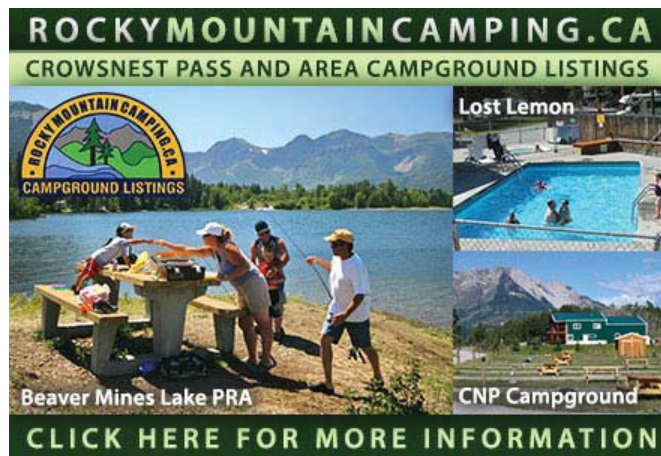
“We have a plan to submit that data post EIA update,” said Clark. “That additional information will be coming in around Christmas.”

The AER is aware that Riversdale’s fisheries studies will not be completed at the time they resubmit their EIA.

AER spokesperson Monica Hermary said her organization, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Alberta Environment and Parks have been working with Riversdale to address fisheries concerns, including concerns related to the habitat of the west slope cutthroat trout.

The federal government has declared the creeks near the proposed Grassy Mountain project critical habitat for Alberta’s threatened population of westslope cutthroat trout.

continued below ...



The critical habitat order, published by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in a November 2015 issue of the Canada Gazette, prohibits the destruction of any part of the trout’s habitat. The prohibition pertains to any recreational, commercial or industrial use that could harm trout streams in the southern Alberta foothills.

Fisheries biologist Lorne Fitch explained that a fisheries survey provides a snapshot of the range of natural variability within an ecosystem including how populations fluctuate within a year and between years.

“You can’t do it in a few months,” said Fitch. “The window you select becomes too narrow to tell the story about what the system is and what the critters are doing to fit into that system.”

“If they want to do this in a legitimate way, they probably should have started a couple years ago to accumulate the information that would provide the regulator with the sense that they had done a credible job,” he added.

Another issue not addressed in the EIA was the impact that the relocation of nine holes of the golf course as well as the clubhouse would have on the community. Riversdale has proposed swapping land with the golf course in order to relocate the nine holes but did not address the fact that some of the land is Crown land.

Waren Gietz will be talking about the re-configuration of the Crowsnest Pass Coal and Country Club at a Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce meeting on June 8.

3 Comments

In addition to the EIA, Riversdale needs to submit a number of other applications related to the project.

Ken

I'll be really surprised if this gets up and running. This would be a blessing for the Crowsnest Pass.

5 days ago

Reply

Marilyn Milley

I remembering hearing that Blairmore was to be considered high risk in regards to the coal loading facility. Does that mean that with the westerly winds we will be struggling with coal dust blowing down the valley from Tim Horton's all the way to east Blairmore? If so, I hope the mine never gets the green light.

5 days ago

Reply

Sam

There is no viable way this project will not adversely effect Blairmore Creek, Gold Creek, and the Crowsnest River. Good luck on Riversdale's attempt to spin this one.

6 days ago

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June 1st ~ Vol. 85 No. 21

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Appendix 6c

Public Notices



GRASSY MOUNTAIN UPDATE

The 2014 exploration program on Grassy Mountain was completed in the fall and has resulted in minimal field activities occurring over the winter period, other than those required as part of the ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment work. However, work has continued in other parts of the world with a recent sample of Grassy Mountain coal sent to Australia for pilot scale processing and coke oven testing as part of the continuing coal quality program to determine the likely future coal product to be produced. Thus far, results from that program have been very encouraging and indicate that Grassy Mountain will be a supplier of hard coking coal that is comparable to the long term industry leading suppliers in both Canada and Australia.

Beyond coal quality and the environmental work, various consultants are working diligently on other aspects of the project such as resource modelling, mine engineering, process plant design, mine scheduling, site infrastructure design and layout with the target of having the technical and environmental feasibility studies complete in Q3 2015 for submission to the Provincial and Federal regulatory authorities. We have also continued our engagement with the First Nation groups impacted by the project and together are working on their traditional use and traditional knowledge studies in respect of the Grassy Mountain site.

FURTHER EXPLORATION NORTH OF GRASSY MOUNTAIN

While not necessarily key to the current Feasibility Study, Riversdale is utilizing the winter months to plan further exploration for the North Grassy Mountain (north of the currently known Grassy Mountain resource) and Bellevue Coal Leases. This Coal Exploration Project (CEP) will involve both resource delineation drilling and also some core sample drilling to provide basic coal quality information. The CEP application is currently being finalized and is intended to facilitate, upon approval, drilling over the 2015 and 2016 summer periods. Given the thick vegetation and topography leading to some of the proposed drill sites, it is intended that access to some drill sites be by helicopter (heli-portable drilling). For further information, please contact our office.

OPEN HOUSE TO UPDATE COMMUNITY ON OPTIONS FOR RAIL LOAD OUT

In addition to the project work outlined above, Riversdale has undertaken significant additional work on the potential rail load-out locations and designs which will enable us to provide a full update to the community and all stakeholders at the next community open house. This work has involved looking at global examples and best practice for rail load-outs in close proximity to communities and also engaging with Alberta Transport to gain an understanding of their long term plans for Highway 3 and the impact any proposed truck by-pass in the Crowsnest Pass could have on both the Grassy Mountain project and the local community.

Riversdale and our engineering and environmental consultants are well aware of the stringent Alberta environmental standards and the requirement for continuous life of mine monitoring of all emissions, noise, dust, so that they don't pose an environmental or human health danger. An additional important consideration for the design will be to minimize the potential visual impacts on the community of Crowsnest Pass and Riversdale is committed to continuously engage the public to receive their views and address environmental issues and areas of concern.

NEXT OPEN HOUSE

A date for the next Open House has not been finalized, but will likely occur in late March or early April. Community feedback from the last Open House requested more detail on the Load Out options and current operating data of those designs being considered to provide as an example. Riversdale understands that it is our responsibility to demonstrate the advancements in coal loading technology over the past 30 years that would be implemented in any modern day facility. Watch local advertising for further information. If you are on our email list, you will be receiving the information. If you would like to be on our list, please contact our office.

GRASSY MOUNTAIN RADIO

It's not pretty, but it does the trick. Everything was still working in the old travel trailer when it was acquired. The radio license was assigned to Grassy Mountain back in the day and with a little ingenuity by Fred Cnossen of Crow Communications the equipment was set up inside the trailer. The trailer has cables that are secured to the axle and cemented down to prevent the prevailing winds from sending the trailer to Lethbridge and the west side reinforced to protect the glass.

Not only does the repeater provide Riversdale with radio communication across the Grassy Mountain site, it can also be used as a First Aid Station if the need arises and is conveniently located at one of our two helicopter evaluation sites on the project. The bathroom facilities no longer exist as the shower and sink were taken out to make room in the bathroom for the few electronic pieces that were required to operate a repeater site. The power supply is by a couple of batteries that maintain their power with solar panels mounted on the outside of the trailer.



A lot of snow was still present up on Grassy Mountain despite the recent warm weather.

Radio Communication has been integral during the exploration that has been conducted on Grassy Mountain. Meeting other vehicles on the narrow trails can be hazardous. With the crews working in the area constantly broadcasting their location, vehicles can meet at safer points. It has also provided safer interaction with the larger vehicles on road. Radio communication has been integral during the exploration that has been conducted on Grassy Mountain. Meeting other vehicles on the narrow trails can be hazardous. With the crews working in the area constantly broadcasting their location, vehicles can meet at safer points. It has also provided safer interaction with the larger vehicles on road maintenance. On rare occasions it has also been used by contractors to ensure there is a piping hot pie ready for their arrival at home after a day on the project.

The photo was taken January 27, 2015 by Riversdale personnel Darren Lefort and Keith Bott who went up to check on the trailer and everything was still intact. Although this has been a mild winter, the short term fabrication should be able to stand up to the elements until something more permanent can replace it. The Riversdale Resources radio frequency has also been programmed into the local Fire and Rescue Radios to provide an additional radio resource for back country fire and rescues that may occur in the north of Crowsnest Pass.

AUSTRALIA DAY, JANUARY 24, 2015

Riversdale Resources held their second annual Australia Day celebration on January 24 at the MDM Community Centre in Bellevue. A sold out event of around 200 people attended the event featuring a dinner supplied by Country Encounters, an auction presided over by Lowry Toombs and entertainment by the Chevelles out of Lethbridge. The auction consisted of items donated by Ducks Unlimited, a painting by Riversdale's own geologist Jackie Rowley and other items like a didgeridoo and collectables from down under. A Travel Coupon was also drawn as the Door Prize. The evening raised almost \$12,000.00 for charity. This year's focus for the event was the Boys and Girls Club of Crowsnest Pass and Elise Kwan, a local teen with a heart condition. The positive feedback from those that attended will ensure a third annual Australia Day. Riversdale would also like to thank Sedgman Limited, Ewen Drilling and Millennium EMS for their contributions to the event.

ADANAC PROJECT

Riversdale is planning to conduct initial exploration within the Adanac lease area south of Blairmore in the summer of 2015.

LEGACY MINING

A considerable amount of legacy mining and coal exploration has been completed in this area. The current intention of Riversdale is to redrill many locations where drilling has occurred in the past to provide us with some additional understanding and confidence in the historical data we have for the project. Further, some drilling will occur in untested areas to gain a better understanding of the geology and resource potential of the area. All areas proposed for drilling were assessed by our geologists, Darren LeFort and Jackie Rowley, during the summer months of 2014.



Riversdale is in the final stages of preparing its regulatory application and is hoping to be active in the field in the summer of 2015. Given the nature of geologists and drillers, priority will be given to drill holes in locations with favourable grade, existing access or where disturbance will be most minimal and as always, all drill sites will be located a safe distance away from water courses according to provincial watercourse specifications. Upon completion of the exploration, reclamation of impacted drill sites will occur.

Further information on the proposed program, regulatory application and contracting opportunities in respect of this program will be forthcoming in future months.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Riversdale is working with Environment and Sustainable Resources Development to assist in the Backcountry Trails Flood Rehabilitation Program. Some of the trails destroyed from the last two year's floods can be repaired by Riversdale Resources. Further discussions with Hillcrest Fish and Wildlife, Quad Squad and Sinister 7 organizers will be required in order to coordinate exploration locations at times that will minimize conflict with other potential activities. As usual, the First Nation Groups impacted will also be consulted. If you have any questions or feel you may have or may know an organization that should also be consulted, please contact the Riversdale Resources office.

FIREMAN'S PARK LAND

As part of its ongoing commitment to the Crowsnest Pass community, Riversdale has recently gifted the land that the Fireman's Park currently sits on behind Bellevue, to the Crowsnest Pass Municipality. Riversdale acquired this land in 2013 as part of the initial acquisition but believed that it is more appropriate that lands such as the Fireman's Park used for the enjoyment of the community are best held as Municipality assets and as such gifted this land to the Municipality.



Lowry Toombs auctions off a framed photo of Grassy Mountain (the same picture that is displayed on the front page of this newsletter) at Australia Day while co-auctioneer, Donna Houston, assists.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LIAISON – KEITH BOTT

At the last Open House on September 30 and October 1, 2014 the people that attended provided feedback about what Riversdale needed for the next Open House. The most popular request from the community was for more information on the Rail Load Out facilities. The Rail Load-Out Option locations are limited and it is because there is a possibility of the Load Out being visible that it is important to the community to know what it's going to look like and how effective is the dust and noise suppression going to be. This is equally as important to Riversdale Resources and our intentions are to provide additional information on that at the next Open House.

People provided details as to how we could present the options, formats that could be used, times that would best meet the needs of the public and one person even provided an example Load-out in Australia that could be referred to. We intend on taking all of these suggestions into consideration for the next Open House. The technology to meet the expectations of the citizens of Crowsnest Pass is available and it is Riversdale's intentions to utilize it in the operations. It is the type of technology that is not only environmentally acceptable, but we believe aesthetically acceptable as well.

Crowsnest Pass has an incredible history to be proud of and it has a lot of resources to build on for the future. I believe Riversdale Resources can be a huge part of the success of Crowsnest Pass on being a thriving community and yet still hold on to its rich history and I am looking forward to being a part of that.



You are invited to attend an Information Session being held on **Thursday February 26th from 7-9 p.m.** at the **Elks Hall** in Blairmore, Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, AB for a program update from 2014 and review the list of proposed 2015 projects for ESRD's **Backcountry Trail Flood Rehabilitation (BTFR) Program.**

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

Riversdale Resources acquired the coal mineral rights to what is commonly referred to as "Grassy Mountain" and the mineral rights to other locations in the Crowsnest Pass area from Devon Canada in August 2013. Subsequent to the transaction, Benga Mining, operating under the name Riversdale Resources, has been conducting exploration, environmental and feasibility study work into the viability of developing and operating a metallurgical coal mine at Grassy Mountain. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the community apprised and to generate input as this and other Riversdale projects progress.



Riversdale Resources Geologist Jackie Rowley takes water samples from some of the surface water in the Grassy Mountain area. The environmental baseline studies continue. Other mammal, raptor, dust, water, fish, vegetation and air quality studies are also ongoing at the site, surrounding area and communities.

Contact Information:

Community Liaison

Keith Bott

(403) 753-5160 Keith.Bott@rivresources.com



**Riversdale (Benga)Grassy Mountain Project
Stakeholder Record of Contact Form**

Date/Time Location

Method of communication Communication Category

Stakeholder Contact Information

Stakeholder Unknown

First Name Last Name

Role/Position Company/Organization

Address

City/Town Province PC

Work Phone Home Phone Cell Phone

Email Add Stakeholder to Mailing List

Other pertinent information, participants, etc.

Summary of Discussion

Documents Distributed (eg. notification letters, regulatory docs, etc.) Submit hard copies to upload to database

Follow up action required?

Date of Follow up

Submitted by

GRASSY MOUNTAIN PROJECT MEETING NOTES

Date/Time Field

Location

Community

Community Attendees:

Project Attendees:

Purpose of Meeting:

Materials Provided or Exchanged:

Follow-up Required?

Yes

No

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

TASK

DUE DATE

Meeting Discussion

Issues

Prepared by:

Reviewed & Approved by:



Benga Mining Limited operating as Riversdale Resources

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Po Box 660
Blairmore, Alberta, T0K 0E0
Phone: +1 403 753 5160
Business Number 84170 9538

May 6, 2015

Open Letter to the Community of Crowsnest Pass

RE Community Open House April 2015

On behalf of Riversdale I wanted to express our appreciation for the large turnout during our recent Open House at the Elks Hall. Over 230 people attended the event with an estimated 180 people staying through to the formal company presentation during the evening. Riversdale were able to gather useful feedback from a significant number of exit interviews completed by attendees during the afternoon and evening sessions. The feedback added to the ongoing community engagement initiated by Riversdale's Blairmore team since our office was established on 20th Avenue in 2013.

The Open House has identified to our team that additional information should be made available on our website and in future Open House sessions. On that matter there was a strong preference for more Open House sessions throughout the year. In addition we received contact details for many additional people to be added to our email distribution list. To date Riversdale has submitted a Project Description and a Project Terms of Reference to Provincial and Federal Regulators as part of their process to determine if there is a requirement for Grassy Mountain to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Riversdale is of the opinion that an EIA will be required and as such is well advanced on the study after commencing it in 2013. The resultant study will be subject to a public consultation process so it is likely that future Open House sessions will include detailed updates on EIA activities along with project, infrastructure and other issues.

The exit interviews also sought to identify people's views around a rail siding location. Of those respondents who support a major project development such as Grassy Mountain an overwhelming majority believe the rail loop within the lower portion of the golf course was a preferred location to that of the rail siding located in the Valley floor between Blairmore and Coleman. As indicated at the Open House, Riversdale has been working with the Golf Club on a redesign of the course and facilities for some months and as a result of the feedback from the Open House, this work will now continue at an expedited rate.

Riversdale has always sought to be transparent in its activities in the Crowsnest Pass and we have appreciated the trust, support and friendship extended to our team. We look forward to working with the Community on the Grassy Mountain Project.

Yours sincerely
<Original signed by>

Steve Mallyon
Managing Director
Riversdale Resources Limited

THE Conveyor

Grassy Mountain Community Newsletter

VOLUME 1 – ISSUE 1 – WINTER 2016



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Upcoming Community Meetings**
- Grassy Mountain at a Glance**
- Water Stewardship Program**
- Grassy Mountain by the Numbers**
- Staff Profile: Bridget Buckle**



Building for Success. Creating Value Together.

Riversdale first came to Crowsnest Pass in 2012 and after establishing an office, we put our first employee and family into the area the following year. Since then we have gradually built a local team to develop the first new mine in the area since mining

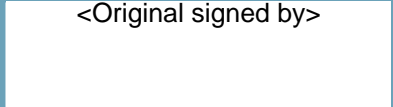
activities largely ceased in the 1960s. Mining, processing, and environmental management processes have advanced considerably in the past decades, and the Riversdale team have collectively developed a number of new projects in the recent years; we plan to bring both experience and technology to the Grassy Mountain project.

Since coming to the area, we've undertaken a number of initiatives, including an environmental impact assessment, permitting, exploration programs, feasibility study and most recently, an optimization study. We are thrilled with the results and are committed to using new

technologies to position the Grassy Mountain project as the highest standard for a coal mine in the world. We are excited by the potential the Grassy Mountain project offers to the local economy, with many of the services required to operate a large mine sub-contracted to local and regional businesses, some of which may indeed be newly established. We are committed to developing and operating the Grassy Mountain project with safety for its employees, their families and the community in a way that respects the environment and meets or exceeds the stringent regulatory standards for our industry.

This newsletter is the first of a quarterly periodical and we hope it helps to answer any questions you have, while keeping you up to date as the project progresses.

<Original signed by>



Steve Mallyon, Managing Director

Upcoming Community Meetings

Have questions? We have a number of upcoming consultations to share project updates and respond to community questions. Join us at any of the following community meetings:

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and
 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Pincher Creek: Heritage Inn Hotel
 and Convention Center,
 919 Waterton Avenue, Hwy 6

Wednesday, April 6, 2016
 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and
 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 District of Sparwood: Causeway
 Bay Hotel, Emerald Room (North
 Entrance at hotel),
 102A Red Cedar Drive

Thursday, April 7, 2016
 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and
 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Crowsnest Pass: Elks Hall,
 2025 – 129th Avenue, Blairmore

Riversdale will also continue to consult directly with First Nations including private community meetings in March.

GRASSY MOUNTAIN NOW AND THEN



Grassy Mountain at a Glance

THE IDEA

The Grassy Mountain Project would take advantage of the existing mining landscape and develop new, world-class mining facilities. The project will include a surface coal mine, a coal preparation plant and require new mine infrastructure, including haul roads, a coal conveyor system, rail load out, maintenance shops and other necessary facilities. The project would produce four million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year to ship to overseas steel producing markets.

WHY GRASSY MOUNTAIN?

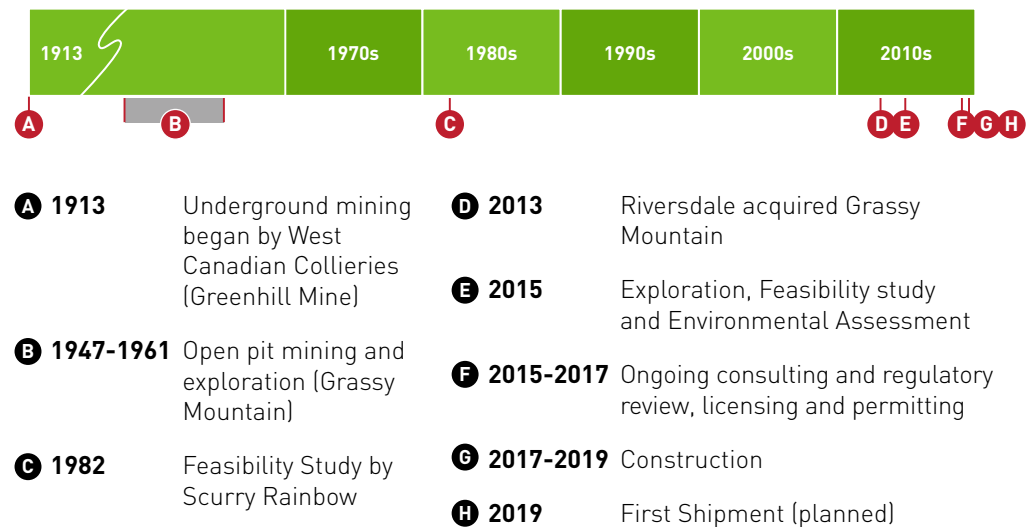
Since the early 1900s Grassy Mountain and the surrounding communities have supported a number of mining activities. Compared to sites without previous mining activities, the mining area can be revitalized with minimal land impacts. New technologies and infrastructure will ensure the Grassy Mountain Project meets the highest standard for a coal mine in the world and provide high quality coal with low operating costs.

THE PROCESS

Since acquiring Grassy Mountain in August 2013, there are a number of steps needed to transform the project from a concept to a fully operational mine.

- **Assess** – Environmental impact assessment (EIA)
- **Test** – Exploration drilling and product testing began
- **Measure** – Feasibility and optimization studies
- **Consult** – Public and private consultations, open houses, and presentations with the local community, First Nations and government
- **Approve** – Request for approval to the Alberta Energy Regulator and permitting
- **Construction** – Scheduled to begin in mid-2017 (subject to approval)
- **Production** – First shipment planned for 2019, expected to reach full operating potential by 2021

GRASSY MOUNTAIN TIMELINE



Making a Difference: The Protection and Rehabilitation of our Waterways

Riversdale Resources is committed to supporting water stewardship activities to rehabilitate habitat and support Westslope Recovery.

Water conservation and protection is a vital issue for our community and for our organization. As members of the community, Riversdale is focused on ensuring all of our efforts reinforce these shared values. To demonstrate our commitment, one of our first priorities is the development of a robust and first-class water stewardship program.

It is widely recognized in the community that cumulative negative impacts associated with historical industrial activity, other types of development, and recreational use have adversely affected both the Blairmore and Gold Creek watersheds. This concern has been highlighted and reinforced in the environmental studies undertaken by Riversdale Resources as part of its Grassy Mountain Project. A general consensus has developed among a number of stakeholder groups in the community that there is potential for a community based stewardship initiative working on rehabilitation activities in these watersheds. This could include such things as bank restoration, elimination of historical sources of contamination and promoting sustainable recreational access practices as well as the recovery of Westslope Cutthroat Trout. To this end, Riversdale Resources is committed to supporting this grassroots initiative and looks forward to working with the community on this stewardship effort.

This also presents an excellent opportunity to conduct additional research by the scientific community. Through a partnership with the University of Lethbridge and renowned biological sciences expert Professor Joseph Rasmussen, Riversdale is also providing funding to support two years of studies and research in the area.

While we are still very early in the initiative, our goal is to continue to work with the community and ensure we continue to protect and enhance our local waterways and marine life for generations to come.



The initiative will support the recovery plan of the at-risk Westslope Cutthroat Trout and their protection in both Blairmore Creek and Gold Creek.

Grassy Mountain by the Numbers

\$40 - \$50M

cost for employee wages and benefits annually

400

full time jobs

1,800

employees contracted during construction

24

years operational expectancy of the mine

4M

annual tonnes of coal at full capacity

1,582 ha

total project size

FAQ's

Q. I thought the government promised to shut down coal-fired plants, how will Riversdale ensure this is a viable project?

A: In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the provincial government is phasing out existing coal-fired power plants in Alberta. However, this will not affect Grassy Mountain. Our project will produce steelmaking coal, which is a critical ingredient used to create steel. If approved, the first shipment is expected to be ready in 2019 and will supply the steel-making market overseas.

Q. Will there be an impact on our water? How are you going to ensure our water will be safe?

A: The project has and will continue to undergo extensive environmental studies to look at potential impacts, including the impact of selenium on groundwater and local water supplies. Riversdale is committed to implementing world-leading best practices to ensure that potential impacts to the environment are mitigated and the water remains safe for residents and wildlife.

Q. Why did the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) suspend its review of the EIA?

A: The AER has requested additional information. We are working diligently to gather the information needed to ensure all areas of concern are fully addressed. We are committed to moving this project forward in a timely manner and are collaborating with the AER to make certain the project meets the high standards set by provincial and federal regulators.

For more information please visit www.riversdaleresources.com

In the Community: 2016 Australia Day

More than 200 community members helped ring in the 2016 Australia Day at the MDM Community Centre in Bellevue. Guests dined on a savory selection of treats provided by the Bamboo Bistro and were blown away by a live performance by the Chevelles. Sponsored by Riversdale, the event raised more than \$10,000 for local community groups.



Staff Profile: Bridget Buckle

Q. How long have you worked for Riversdale?

A: I started with Riversdale October 2013, been having fun ever since.

Q. How long have you lived in Crowsnest Pass?

A: I moved to the Pass in 1999 with my husband and two daughters, I love this place.

Q. What's your favourite way to spend a weekend?

A: I love to walk and do yoga (not good enough to form a pretzel yet) and read. Of course, housework and shopping interfere with this quite often.

Q. What is your dream travel destination?

A: I have always wanted to see Alaska but Christmas in Paris sounds really good as well.

Q. If you could have lunch with anyone living or dead who would it be and why?

A: My Mom, I miss her and after that, Katherine Hepburn, she sounds like my kinda lady!

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For general enquiries,
comments, requests related to the Grassy Mountain Project
please email: riv.community@rivresources.com

Grassy Mountain Community Newsletter

THE Conveyor

VOLUME 2 – ISSUE 2 – SPRING 2016



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Executive Message**
- Grassy Mountain Update**
- Grizzly Bear Inventory**
- Steelmaking Coal infographic**
- Staff Profile: Darren Lefort**



Executive Message

Riversdale Resources successfully completed our third major coal exploration drilling program on Grassy Mountain between November 15 and February 28th. This program was needed to support the mine pit design by confirming the extent and

depth of the coal seams. We also collected additional core samples for coal quality testing.

Running a drilling program on Grassy Mountain is a challenge at the best of times, but running one through winter is a greater challenge. This program was drilled by Goodearth Drilling based in Airdrie. They drilled 19 open holes and three 6 inch core holes.

The open holes were drilled using a method called reverse circulation where the bedrock is broken into small chips using a percussion hammer and brought to the surface to be identified and logged.

Cored holes are drilled using a core barrel which gives a 6" column of rock that can be logged and tested for coal quality and rock hardness. The core samples are sent offsite to be analyzed for quality and quantity monitoring, control and verification.

All the holes were studied using common geophysical techniques which accurately determine the depths and thicknesses of coal seams, this is critical information when evaluating the potential viability of a mine.

The existing road network on Grassy Mountain was utilized to access the drill locations and significant snow removal was required – the drifting in some areas was above the top of the dozer. Aside from the expected extreme windy conditions, the weather for the project could have been much worse.

The mild winter did create freeze thaw cycles that made the road very icy and treacherous.

Safety for the drill crew and Riversdale staff is critical and we successfully completed the exploration program accident free.

We anticipate the results from this drilling program will confirm the positive results of the coal quality from the previous exploration and will ensure we are maximizing the resources available.

<Original signed by>

Peter Murray, Operations Manager

Grassy Mountain Update

Since our previous issue of The Conveyor was distributed there have been a few developments on the Grassy Mountain project. Over the past several months we have been actively working on a drilling program on the mountain which was completed in February. Approximately two tonnes of coal, from three different seams, have been sent to a lab for analysis. The data collected will be used by the team to complete geological modelling of the mine which will help inform our regulatory and permit applications and the development of the mine. The analysis will also help determine requirements for future drilling programs.

Members of the Project team have held several meetings with regulatory agencies to discuss the application and work together to determine what information they require in order to ensure the mine meets the rigorous



Environmental consultant collecting hydrogeology data for Grassy Mountain water study (winter 2016)

standards of the regulatory review process. We had hoped to be holding community meetings during the month of April, however these have been pushed back to allow more time for Riversdale, provincial and federal regulators to finalize information requirements and coordinate schedules.

In addition to the recently completed drilling program, Riversdale continues to move forward on a variety of other research projects. These projects will provide valuable data and insight as we move to finalize our regulator and permit applications.

Coal is a key ingredient in the production of steel

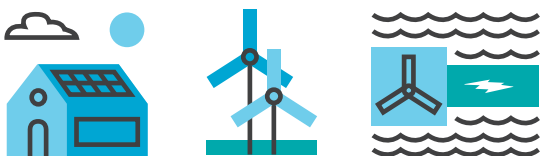
Steel goes into almost everything we touch and use every day, from cell phones and tablets, to fridges and stoves.



GREEN ENERGY

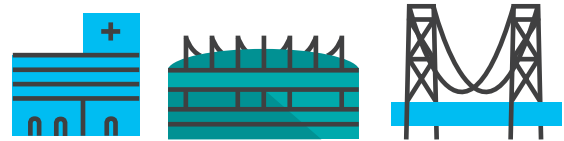
Steel and steelmaking coal play a critical role in the production of green energy technology.

Wind turbines, solar panels, tidal power & bio-energy systems all rely on steelmaking coal to help bring sustainable and renewable energy to the world.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Globally and here at home, steel is used to build critical infrastructure such as housing, hospitals and bridges.



TRANSPORTATION

Steel is used to help build our transit networks.



630 kilograms of steelmaking coal is required to produce an average-sized car.

30,000 tonnes of steelmaking coal was used to build the new Canada Line rapid transit system connecting Richmond & Vancouver.





Grizzly Bear Inventory

Supporting an Alberta Conservation Association project

Image from a Grizzly Bear Inventory project trail camera (winter 2016)

Grizzly bears are an iconic symbol of Alberta's wilderness and an important part of the natural and cultural landscape.

Grizzly bears are designated as a "Threatened" species under provincial wildlife legislation. Moving forward, better understanding about where and how many animals live in the region is needed to assist in the recovery of our province's bear population.

Riversdale is committed to ensuring Grassy Mountain operates sustainably and contributes to the long term environmental management and stewardship of the land base. As part of this commitment, Riversdale Resources has contributed to the collaborative effort between Alberta Conservation Association and Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) to collect grizzly bear data in the area between Hwy 3 in the Crowsnest Pass to the southern area of Kananaskis country. This is part of AEP's larger data collection project to determine the density and distribution of grizzlies across the province.

In 2014, a tremendous effort involving a small army of biologists, volunteers and seasonal staff located 412 bear rub objects on public land. With the assistance of the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association's Carnivore Working Group the survey efforts were extended onto private and leased lands in 2015.

930 rub objects across the study area have now been identified and researchers have attached short strands of barbed wire to the rub surface of each to collect hair for analysis. This is safe, non-invasive and an effective technique to gain valuable information on the grizzly bear population.

Now moving into the third season of data collection, hair samples collected in 2016 will be sent to Wildlife Genetics International lab, in Nelson, BC for analysis. The DNA extracted from hair follicles allow researchers to differentiate species (black vs. grizzly bear), sex, and the individual identity of bears at each rub location. This information, combined with other data within the study area will enable researchers to have a more accurate estimation of the number and density of grizzlies.

The grizzly bear inventory, along with other wildlife studies underway by Riversdale, will be used to inform the company's mining operations through to reclamation, to help enable a healthy grizzly bear population for years to come.

The inventory project has been made possible through the generous support of local communities, private sector partners and volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about the project or would like to find a way to contribute to its success, please visit www.ab-conservation.com

FAQ's

Q. The load out will be located on the golf course, what will the noise impact be?

A: We recognize potential noise impacts are a concern in the community. We believe the location of the load out is ideal for a variety of reasons, including minimizing noise. Baseline noise monitoring was recently conducted to measure and evaluate the potential impact from the proposed load out location. The results of these test will be included in the company's permit applications and made available to the public at open houses.

Q. We want Crowsnest Pass to be a tourist destination, how will a coal mine affect that?

A: The Grassy Mountain project will provide long-term, stable economic benefits for the people and community of Crowsnest Pass. We believe that sustainable development means balancing economics, environmental protection and social impacts to create a positive legacy for the community and our shareholders.

Q. Should we be worried about the impact of dust on our air quality?

A: We are committed to world-leading best practices to minimize environmental impacts, including dust, in the community. We are proposing to use state of the art equipment to transport the products from the mine to the load-out facility. Monitors will continuously measure air quality to ensure it stays within appropriate levels and will be available to the public in real time.

Staff Profile: Darren Lefort - Environmental Advisor



Q. How long have you worked for Riversdale?

A: I have worked for Riversdale since January, 2014 – when I moved to Crowsnest Pass for work.

Q. When you're not working, what's your favourite way to spend your time?

A: I love to hike or scramble. There are some amazing trails and climbs very close to town.

Q. What's one thing you couldn't live without?

A: I couldn't live without music. I play guitar and drums and I'm always listening to all kinds of music.

Q. Where is the best place you've traveled to and why?

A: My favourite place is definitely Colombia. It's a beautiful country and the people were very friendly.

Q. If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be?

A: I'd be an astronaut, but I think I would need more than one day.

We Want to Hear from You

As the Grassy Mountain project moves forward, it is important to us that we hear from members of the community about their views and be able to respond to questions. We are committed to being positive members of this community and ensure we become a catalyst for sustainable growth.

As the project moves forward through the regulatory review process, formal community meetings and open houses will be scheduled. We will notify members of those dates and times through this newsletter and other advertisements in local papers.



Community Bulletin Board

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7 & 8

Artists Studio Tour

Self-guided tour through local artists' studios

May 21 and 22

Crowsnest Pass Dance Society Year End Show

University of Lethbridge Theatre

June 4

Ed Grogor Stewardship Day

Find out more at www.crowsnestforest.org

June 18

Crowsnest Toxic Round-up

Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex



Riversdale Resources

Suite 1, Level 2,
284 Victoria Avenue.
Chatswood NSW 2067

PO Box 3195
Willoughby North NSW 2068

Telephone: +61 2 9419 6100

Benga Mining Limited o/a Riversdale Resources

PO Box 660
12331 20th Avenue,
Blairmore AB T0K 0E0

Telephone: +1 403 753 5160



riversdaleresources.com

For general enquiries, comments, requests related to the Grassy Mountain Project please email: riv.community@rivresources.com

Appendix 6d

Public Forum and Open House Material



GRASSY MOUNTAIN COAL PROJECT OPEN HOUSE & PROJECT UPDATE PRESENTATION/Q & A

APRIL 22, 2015
ELKS HALL
2025 - 129 AVE.
BLAIRMORE, AB

OPEN HOUSE 2PM - 7PM
PRESENTATION/Q & A 7PM - 8:30PM



- EXPLORATION RESULTS
- PROJECT UPDATE
- RAIL LOAD OUT DISCUSSION
- FINANCIAL IMPACT
- REFRESHMENTS
- ELKS HALL
BLAIRMORE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Keith Bott
Riversdale Resources
403-753-5160
www.rivresources.com



RIVERSDALE
RESOURCES

Open House May 2014



Introduction - Keith Bott

Completed Winter and Upcoming Summer Program – Peter Murray

Community / First Nations – Keith Bott

Project Update – Steve Mallyon

Coal Market Update – Anthony Martin

Questions & Answers

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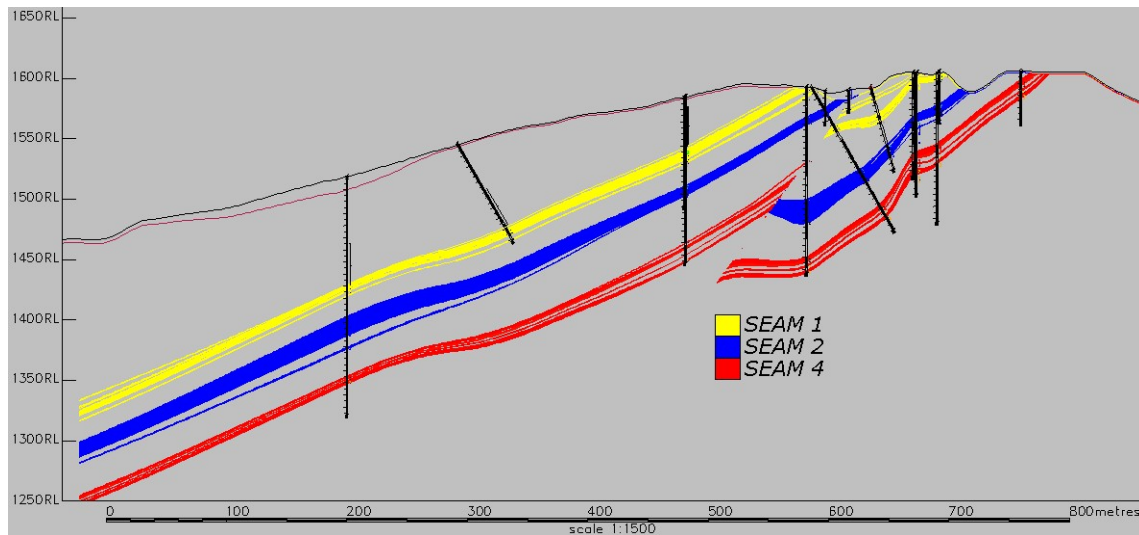
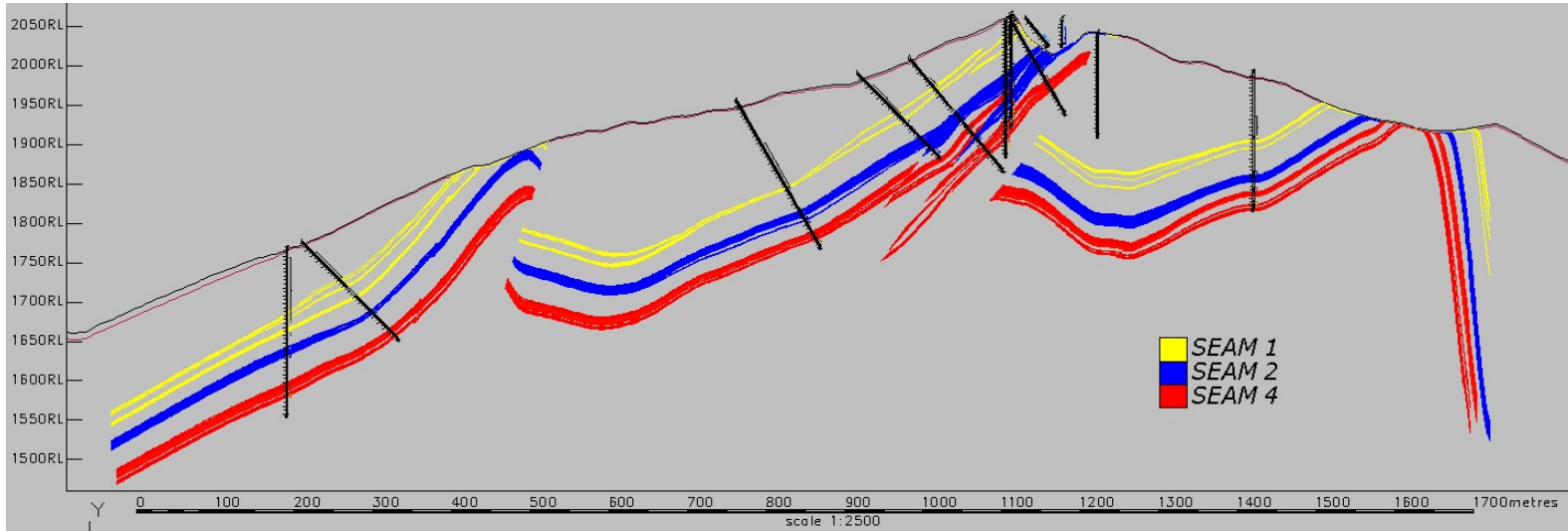


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 - ~32 open holes
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Winter Drilling Program





Grassy Mountain Access



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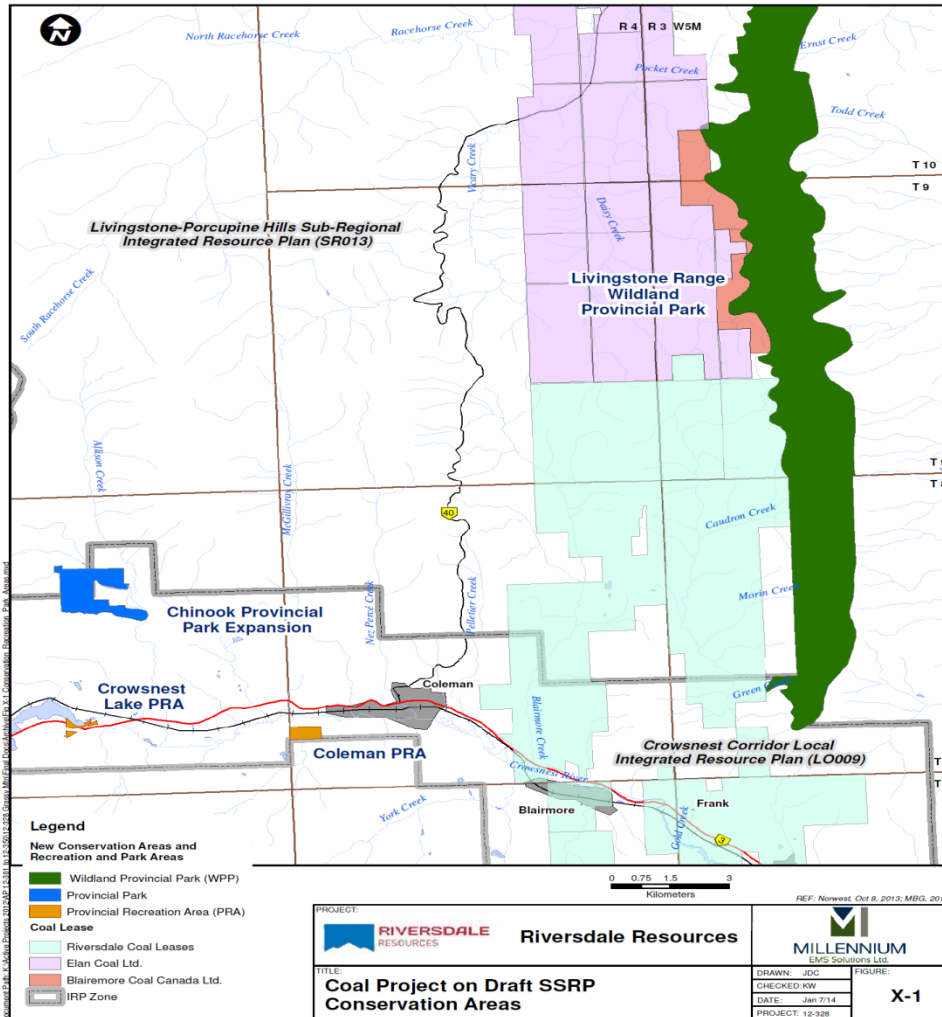
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- Draft plan that says mineral and coal interests will be exempt from any restrictions resulting from the plan



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- **Australia**
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Address:

12331 20th Ave
Blairmore AB T0K 0E0
Canada

Phone:

(403) 753 5160

Contact:

Keith Bott
Community Liaison



Grassy Mountain Coal Project Open House – Exit Interview

Date: _____

The purpose of this public engagement event was to meet your needs to learn about and comment on the Grassy Mountain Coal Mine Project.

	Yes	No	Some what
▪ Did you get the information you needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Was the event helpful to learn about the Project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Were the materials provided easy to understand and use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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▪ Did staff listen and record your comments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are there improvements you would recommend for future public engagement events?

Identified Community Concerns and Interests

Grassy Mountain Coal Mine Project representatives have identified interests and concerns from their contact with people in the community and region. Please indicate any of the following that may be of concern or interest to you:

(check all that apply)

- Residential or recreational private property impacts
- Human health
- Public safety and Emergency Response
- Industrial and mine related traffic volumes and safety
- Reclamation and return of mined lands to public use
- Groundwater quality
- Groundwater quantity
- Surface water quantity
- Surface water quality
- Public engagement process/events/opportunities
- Wildlife and fisheries
- Protection of historical resources
- Recreation access on public land

If there are additional areas of concern or interest not identified above and/or additional comments, please note them on the reverse side of this page...



Additional areas of concern or interest and/or additional comment:

Would you like a Grassy Mountain Coal Mine Project representative to follow-up with you regarding any interests, needs or concerns you have and/or provide you with project information updates?

- YES NO

If yes, what is your interest or concern that needs follow-up?

If yes, how would you prefer to be contacted and provided with information updates?

Your Name: _____

Contact me by:

Phone Phone No: _____

Email Email Address: _____

Fax Fax No: _____

Surface Mail Street Address: _____

City / Town _____

Postal Code _____

Personal Visit Preferred Location: _____

Preferred Date: _____

Thank you for participating.

Grassy Mountain Coal Project

PUBLIC FORUM

Thursday, May 29 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex
(above the curling rink)

Grassy Mountain Project Update
Question Period
Light Refreshments

For more information contact Keith Bott
403-753-5160



RIVERSDALE

RESOURCES



RIVERSDALE
RESOURCES

Open House May 2014



Introduction - Keith Bott

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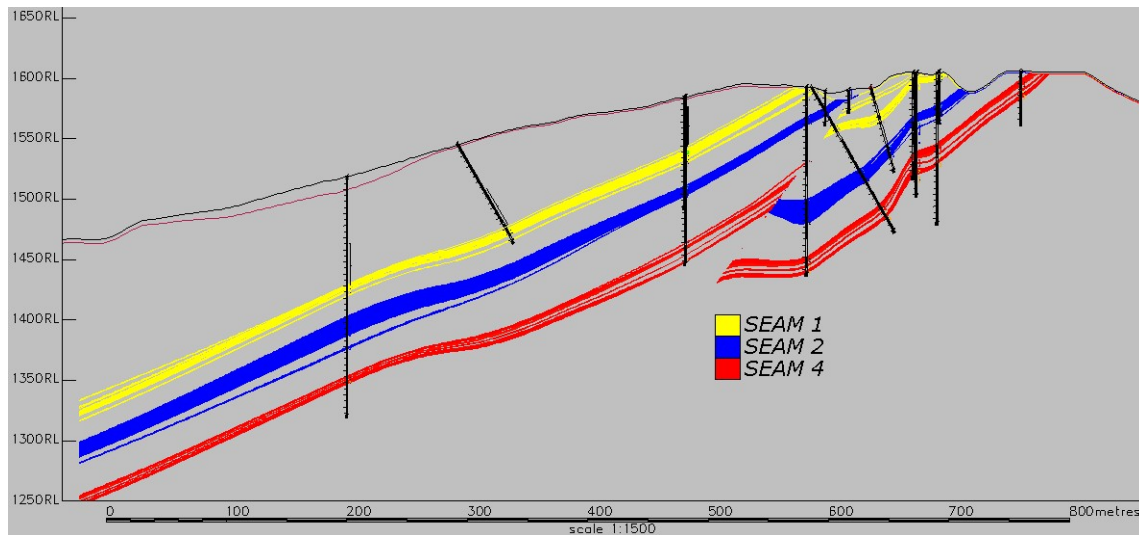
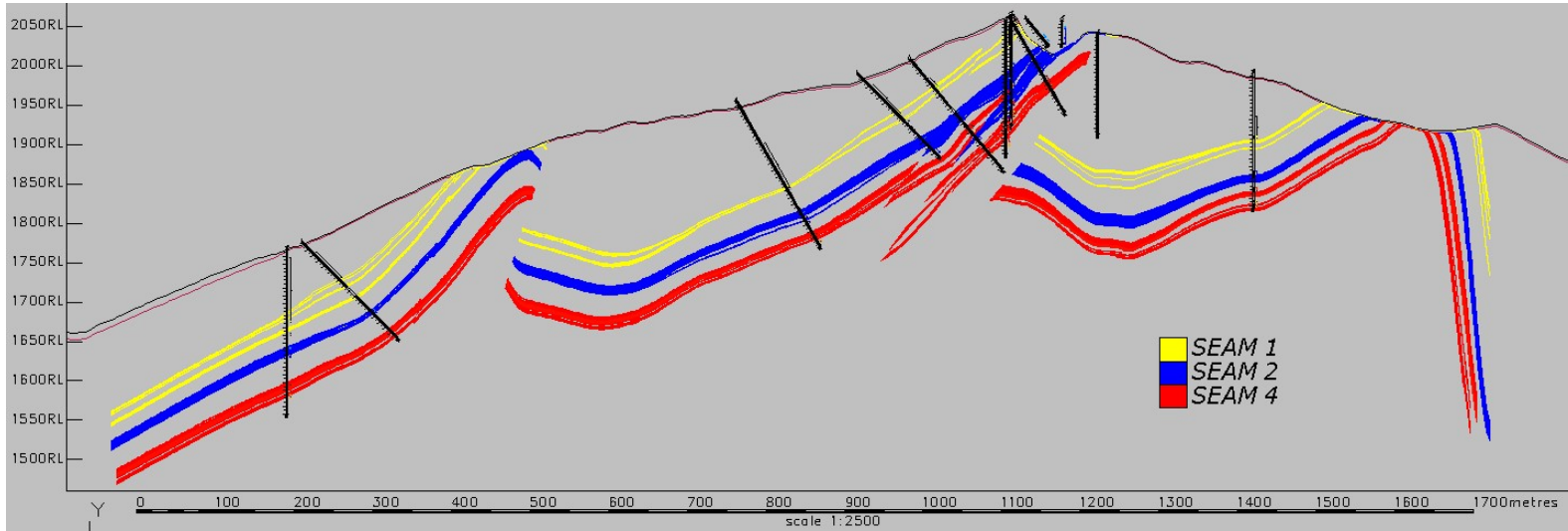


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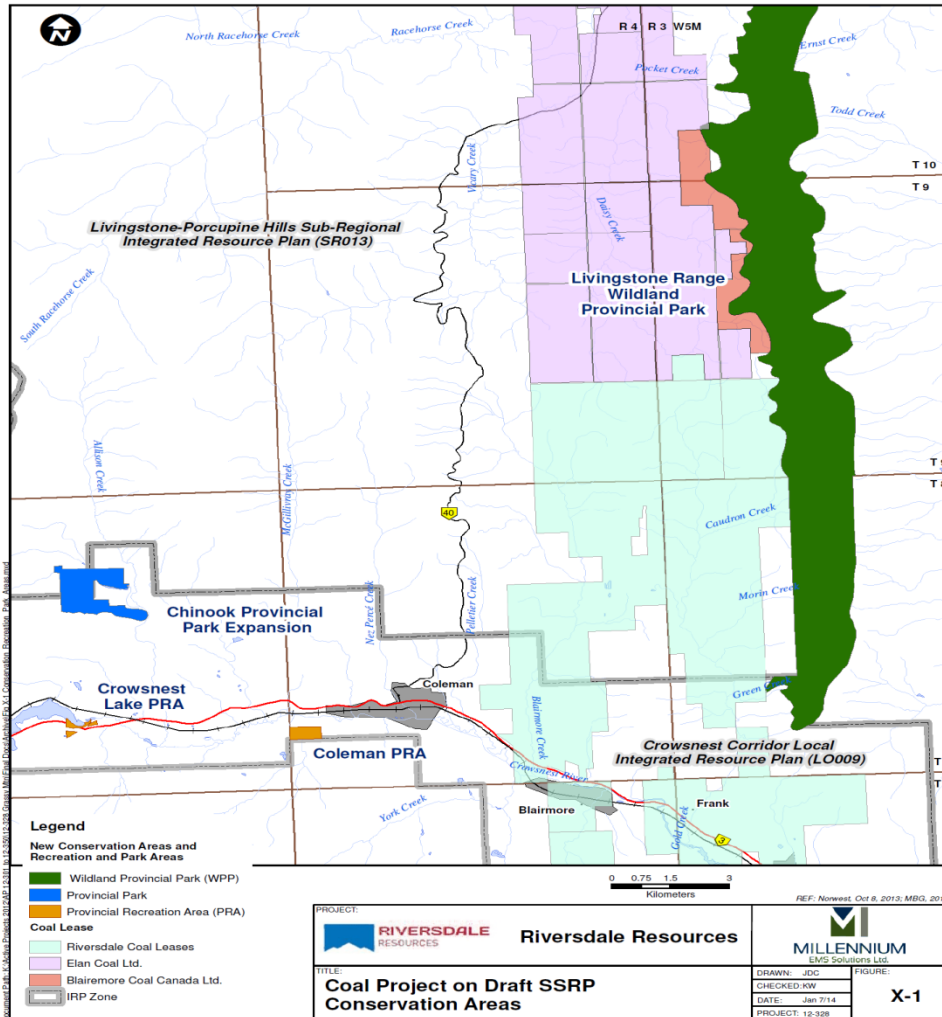
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Canada

Phone:

(403) 753 5160

Contact:

Keith Bott
Community Liaison





Grassy Mountain Project Open House/Public Forum Project Update

OCTOBER 29, 2015

4:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the MDM

Benga Mining operating as Riversdale Resources is providing an update on the Grassy Mountain Project, an overview of the Project Application and EA Process and receive your comments on the EIA/EIS approach.

WHERE: MDM COMMUNITY CENTER
2802 – 222 ST.
BELLEVUE, AB

TIME: OPEN HOUSE 4:00PM - 6:00PM
PRESENTATION 6:00PM - 6:30PM
Q & A 6:30 - 7:30

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Keith Bott
Riversdale Resources
403-753-5160
www.rivresources.com



SEPTEMBER 30, 2014
2:00PM – 6:00PM
OCTOBER 1, 2014
2:00PM – 7:00PM
CROWSNEST SPORTS COMPLEX

GRASSY MOUNTAIN COAL PROJECT

Open House



**OPTIONS FOR THE
RAIL AND TRAIN
LOAD OUT**

**UPDATE WITH
ONGOING
ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES**

**START OF THE
FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS**

**CROWSNEST PASS
SPORTS COMPLEX
(ABOVE THE
CURLING RINK)**

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT:**

Keith Bott
Riversdale Resources
403-753-5160

www.rivresources.com



On Air Creative

4920 - 59th Street, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6W1

(403) 348-8831/Fax - 346-1230

Email: droorda@newcap.ca

CLIENT:	Benga Mining	WRITER:	Djoeke Roorda
AIR DATES:	Oct 22-29	DATE:	June 14, 2016
CJPR		LENGTH:	:30
STATION 2:		ANNCR:	
CAMPAIGN:	Open House	CO-OP:	No
BCO(S) :	106452	SALES:	Barb Kelly
DCS FIELD:	Create New Cart	TASKS:	No Additional Tasks

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

ANNCR: Riversdale Resources is having an Open House on Thursday, October 29th at the M-D-M in Bellevue. Displays will be set up from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, then Riversdale Resources will have a presentation and Q and A to follow. Riversdale Resources is looking for your feedback on the Grassy Mountain Project. For further details call 403-753-51-60 or visit their office across from the Greenhill Hotel in Blairmore. Keep up on the Grassy Mountain Project by attending the Open House... October 29th at the MDM Community Center....

PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOUR RADIO SCRIPT IS APPROVED AS IS OR WITH CHANGES VIA PHONE OR EMAIL.

Grassy Mountain Coal Project

Open House - Survey

Date: 2015-10-29

	Yes	No	Some what
▪ Did you get the information you needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Was the event helpful to learn about the Project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Were the materials provided easy to understand and use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Were the staff helpful in explaining the materials so you could respond?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Are there improvements you would recommend for future public engagement events?

Identified Community Concerns and Interests

Grassy Mountain Coal Mine Project representatives have identified interests and concerns from their contact with people in the community and region. Please indicate any of the following that may be of concern or interest to you:

(check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes/impact to community character | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Mammals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community health/wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public safety and Emergency Response | <input type="checkbox"/> Surface water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial and mine related traffic volumes | <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reclamation of mined lands to public use | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of historical resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation access on public land | |

Additional areas of concern or interest and/or additional comment:

Do you support the Grassy Mountain Project?

- Yes Yes, but I have concerns (below) No, for reason(s) below

Comments: _____

Would you like to be kept in contact with project information updates and newsletters?

- YES NO If yes, identify method of contact and provide contact information below.
- Phone Email Fax Surface Mail Personal Visit

Would you like a Grassy Mountain Coal Mine Project representative to follow-up with you regarding any interests, needs or concerns you have?

- YES NO

If yes, what is your interest or concern that needs follow-up, identify method you would like to be contacted and contact information.

Your Name: _____

Phone Phone No: _____

Email Email Address: _____

Fax Fax No: _____

Surface Mail Street Address: _____

City / Town _____

Postal Code _____

Personal Visit Preferred Location: _____

Preferred Date: _____

Thank you for participating.



RIVERSDALE

RESOURCES

GRASSY MOUNTAIN COAL PROJECT

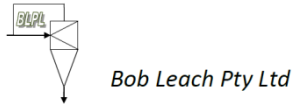
CROWSNEST PASS COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

October 29, 2015

GRASSY MOUNTAIN TEAM



Geology & Geological Modelling



Coal Quality Analysis & Planning



Coal - Value in Use



Open Pit Modelling



Mining / Geo-tech / Hydrology / Hydrogeology



Environmental Impact Assessment



Coal Processing & Materials Handling, Infrastructure & Utilities



Rail Siding



First Nations Engagement



Contractor Case

Our Commitments

Riversdale Resources is committed to:

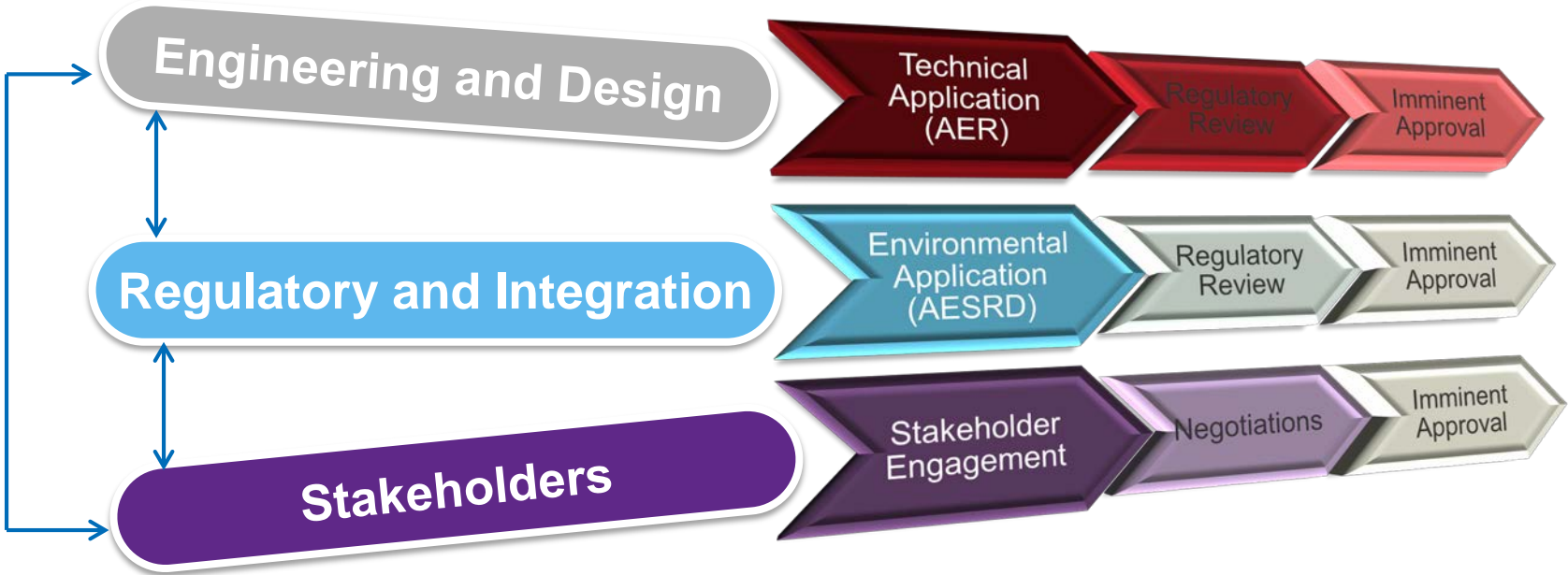
- Safety as a priority for our workforce and the surrounding community;
- Responsible development in a manner that respects the people, the community and the environment in which we operate;
- Being a supportive member of the community and establishing strong relationships with our stakeholders based on trust and open communication;
- Minimizing impacts to the environment by implementing appropriate stewardship practices to responsibly develop the resource and manage environmental performance; and
- Managing our business to withstand the cyclical nature of the global coal sector, providing a stable employment and economic base for our workers and the surrounding community, and meets our business goals.

Why Grassy Mountain?

- Grassy Mountain will produce a high quality mid-volatile hard coking coal
- Operating costs for existing suppliers are increasing because of high stripping ratios and challenging infrastructure
- Grassy has established infrastructure (rail and port facilities) to access overseas markets
- Canada is viewed as a reliable supplier of high quality coking coal, particularly to Asia and South America
- Community and region has a proud heritage (multi generational) of coal mining – available educated workforce, existing support services

What have we been up to?

Riversdale Resources have been busy preparing its application for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project

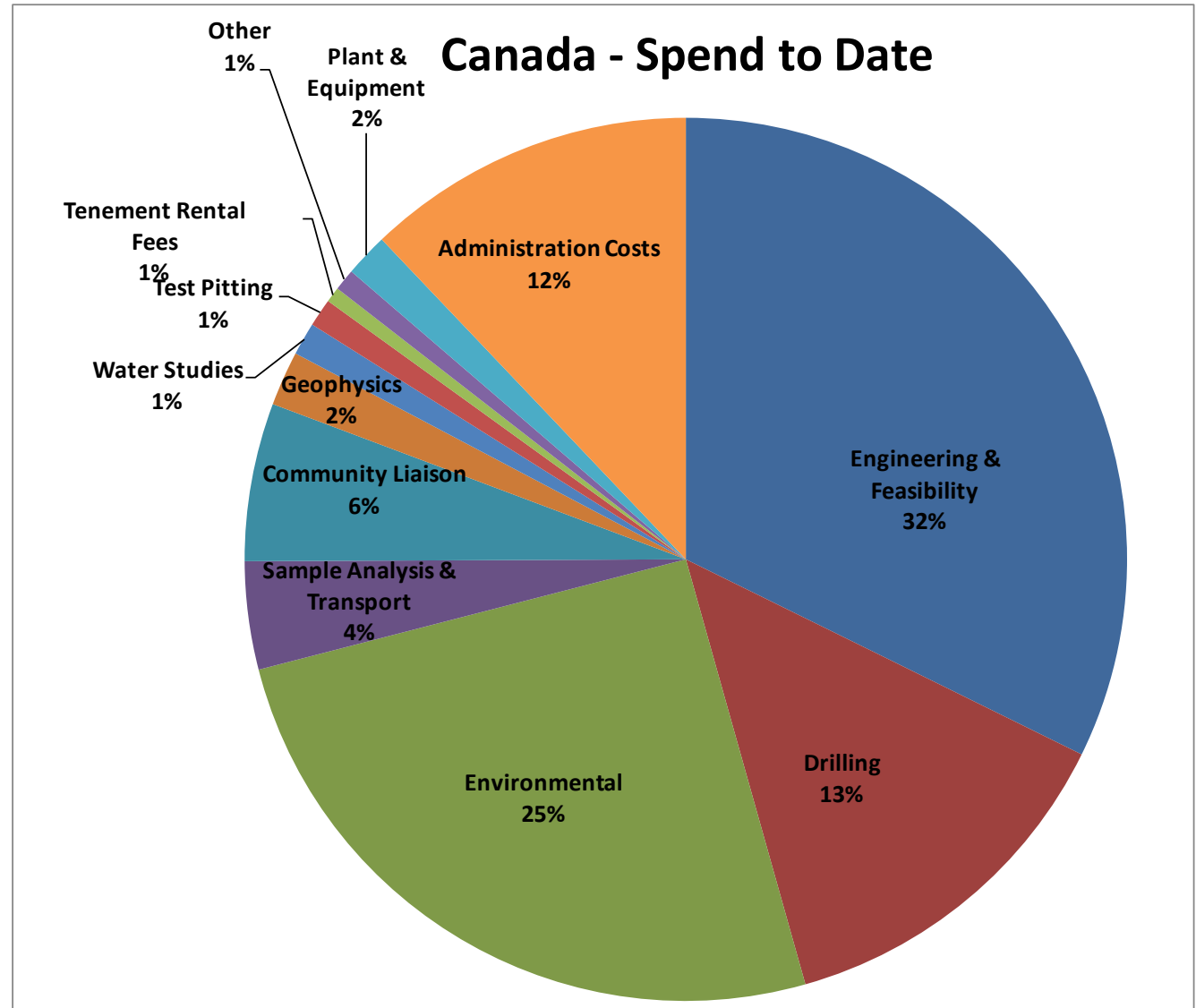


CANADA SPEND

C\$ '000

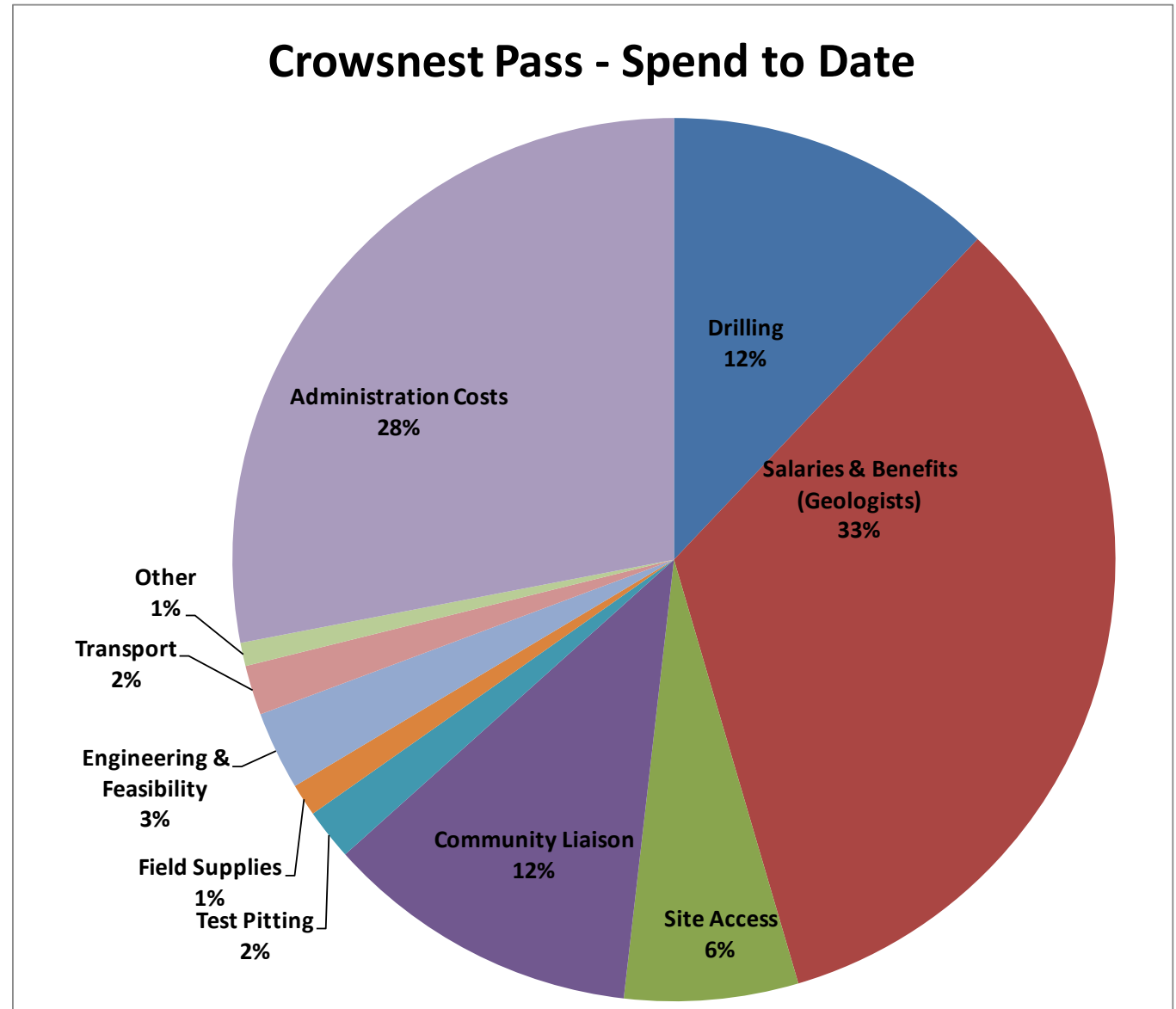
Exploration

	Project To Date	%
Engineering & Feasibility	5,610	32%
Drilling	2,319	13%
Environmental	4,404	25%
Sample Analysis & Transport	687	4%
Community Liaison	1,005	6%
Geophysics	348	2%
Water Studies	209	1%
Test Pitting	178	1%
Tenement Rental Fees	98	1%
Other	138	1%
Plant & Equipment	277	2%
Administration Costs	2,103	12%
	<u>17,377</u>	



CROWSNEST PASS SPEND

C\$ '000	Project To Date Sep-15	%
Exploration		
Drilling	465	12%
Salaries & Benefits (Geologists)	1,287	33%
Site Access	245	6%
Community Liaison	445	12%
Test Pitting	72	2%
Field Supplies	46	1%
Engineering & Feasibility	111	3%
Transport	70	2%
Other	33	1%
Administration Costs	1,080	28%
	<u>3,855</u>	



What is the Grassy Mountain Project?

- ~25 year, open pit mine
- Total footprint is 1582 ha
 - ~50% on privately held land owned by Riversdale Resources
 - ~50% on Crown lands to be leased by Riversdale Resources
- Production:
 - 4 million tonne/year 100% coking coal
- Dry tailings disposal (No tailings pond)
- CHPP and associated infrastructure located near pit
- ~5 km long covered conveyor from CHPP to rail load out
- Proposed rail loop and load out facility
 - No coal stockpiles beyond the CHPP (5 km north of rail loop)
 - 4.8 trains per week at full production
 - Westshore Terminals south of Vancouver

Why Another Coal Mine?

Increasing global pressure to reduce use of fossil fuels due to concerns over climate change

- Responsibly developed, metallurgical coal supports renewable energy
- Metallurgical coal remains a vital component to steel manufacturing
- World demand for low impurity metallurgical “coking” coal is increasing
- Mines supplying current demand are maturing – new sources are needed
- The Grassy Mountain Project is situated at the lower end of the global cost curve

How does Metallurgical Coal Support Renewable Energy?



- 1 Mw of wind turbine power requires 205 tonnes of metallurgical coal
- Each tonne of steel requires about 800 kilograms of coking coal
- Lower stripping ratios at Grassy means less energy consumption to produce coal = less impact to environment

Infrastructure

Conceptual Image of Rail Loop from Hwy 3 (eastbound)



Infrastructure

Conceptual Image of Load Out from Hwy 3 (westbound)



Timeline to Production

Estimated Timeline to Project Startup

Feasibility Study Completion:	October
EIA Completion & Submission:	Early November
Government Permitting:	Subject to CEAA Panel Review date (Expected decision Q2 2017)
Single Module Construction:	18 months
Single Module Commissioning:	Q4 2018
First Shipment:	Q1 2019

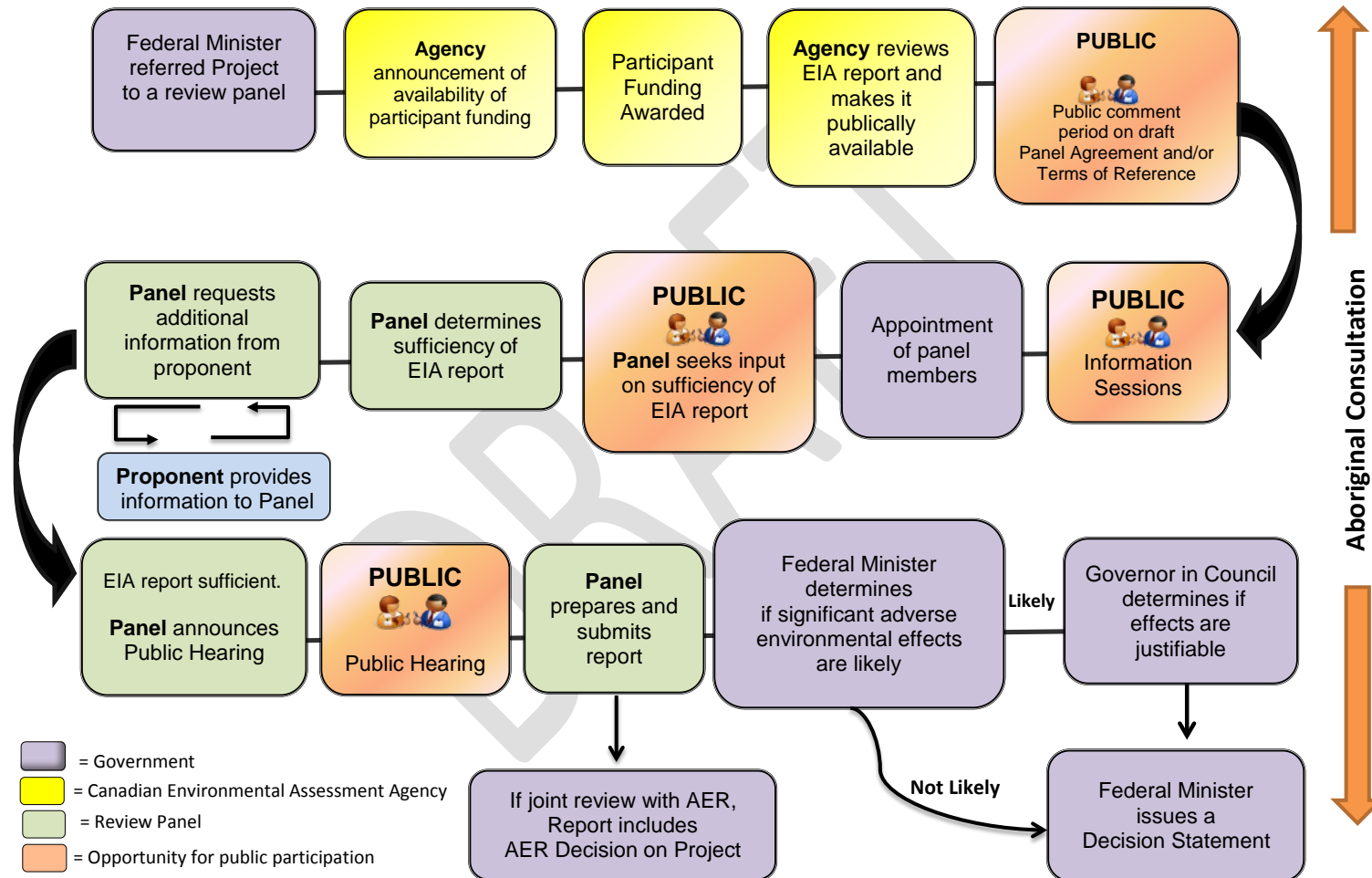
Summary

Based on the results of the Feasibility Study and the EIA, Riversdale Resources believes:

- The Grassy Mountain Project is a competitive commercial Project to supply 4 MT/year of quality metallurgical “coking” coal to the overseas steel market
- The Project will provide significant positive long term social and economic benefits to the community of Crowsnest Pass and surrounding region
- The predicted environmental effects of the Project will be minimal and can be effectively managed through mitigation, monitoring and stewardship to ensure the natural values of the area are maintained
- We are thankful for the community support and industry expertise within the Crowsnest Pass for Riversdale and the Grassy Mountain Project

Draft Provincial – Federal Review Process

Grassy Mountain Coal Project Review Panel Process



- = Government
- = Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- = Review Panel
- = Opportunity for public participation

AER = Alberta Energy Regulator
 Federal Minister = Minister of the Environment

Thank you

Is Grassy using Mountain Top Removal?

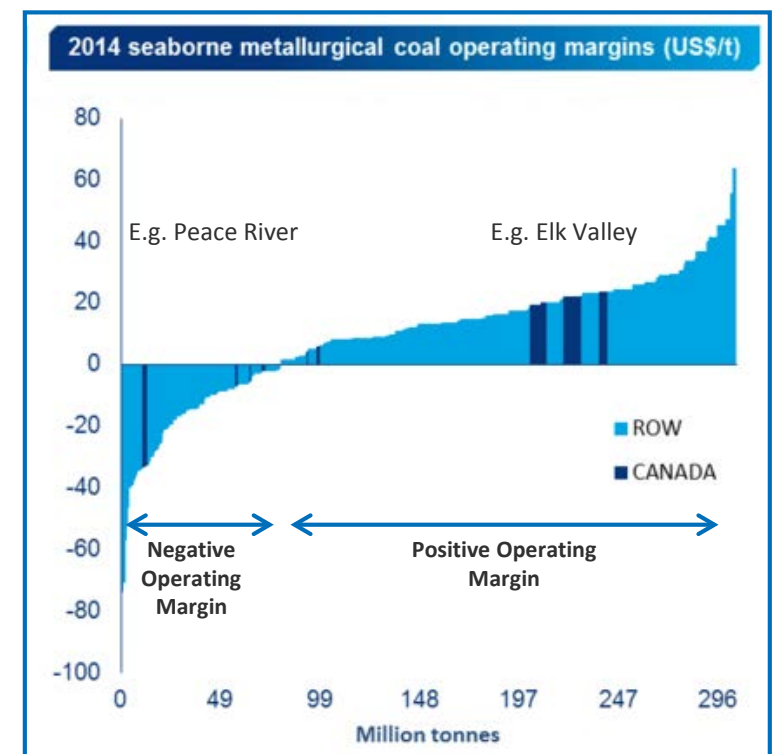
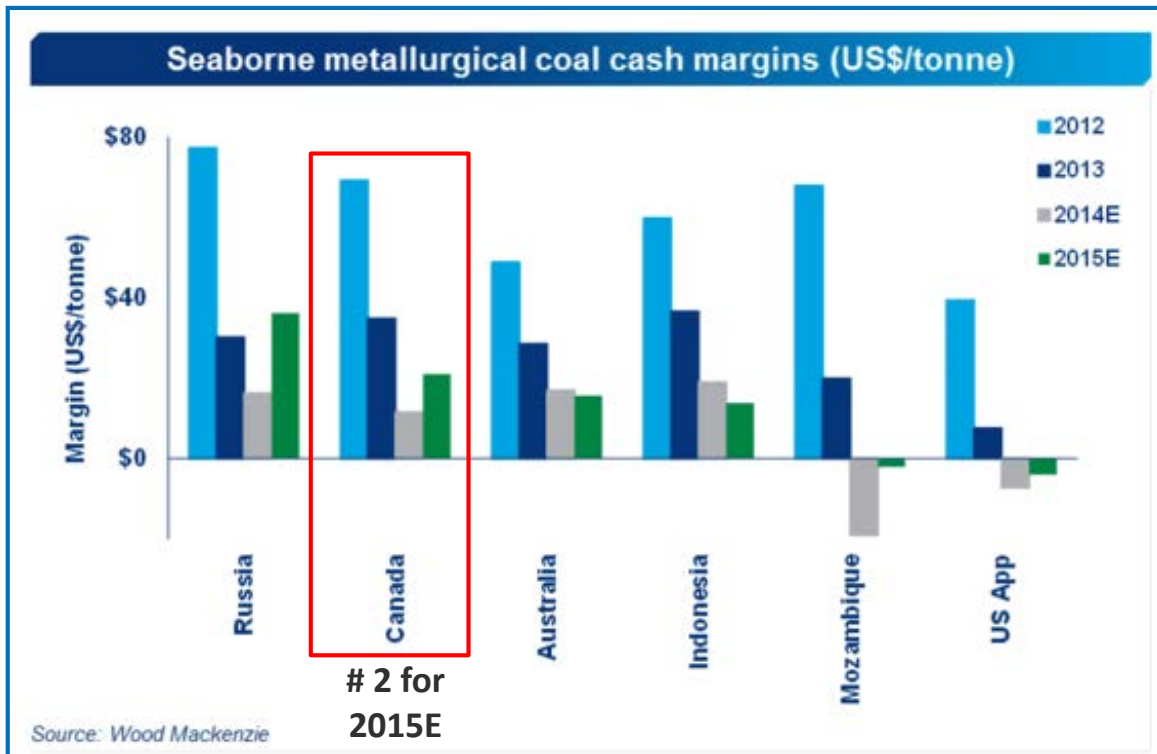
- The Grassy Mountain Project will expand on the legacy open pit mine operations that began in the 1950s and ceased in the 1960s.
- Much of the original Grassy Mountain was disturbed during those historical operations, including the top of the mountain
- The Grassy Mountain Project will not directly impact the main stems of either Gold or Blairmore Creeks
- Grassy will use phased open pit mining – backfilling pits as phases are completed
- There are no tailings ponds, rejected process material will be returned to the pit or placed in one of two external dumps
- Sites will be progressively reclaimed as mining proceeds
- At mine closure, Grassy Mountain will be lower than at present

ENVIRONMENT

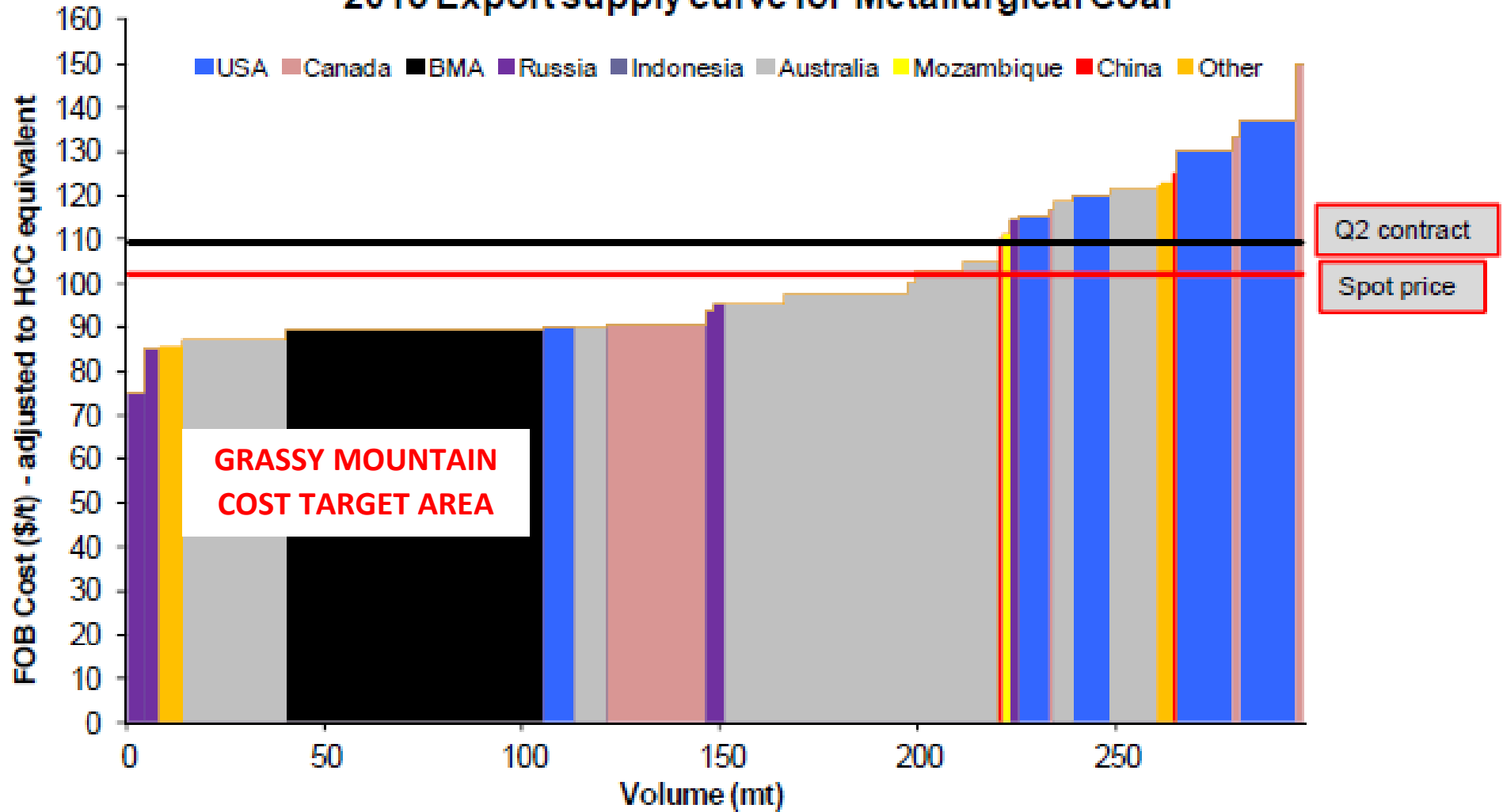


- The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) issued a direction notice to Riversdale on September 28 to request remediation on the Eastern side of Grassy Mountain above Gold creek.
- The large rainfall event mobilised old coal dumps from historical mining with potential to migrate into the creek.
- Following the July rainfall event the Riversdale team implemented earthworks and barriers along the lease adjoining the creek.
- Much of the coal has come from Crown leases near the summit of Grassy.
- A remediation plan has been prepared by Riversdale and Millenium with a Millenium Environmental Engineer providing external certification.
- A site inspection by DFO is planned in the week of October 19 to check progress.

- **Market in Oversupply**
 - Difficult times with minimal new project development and a focus in increasing productivity.
 - +/-30Mt of high cost seaborne production closed/placed on care and maintenance in 2014.
 - Considered ~25% of global and ~50% of US producers are in a negative operating cash position.
- **Focus needs to be on high value products and low operating cash costs**



2015 Export supply curve for Metallurgical Coal



BOARD & MANAGEMENT



The Riversdale team is experienced in metallurgical coal development.

- Board and management team made up of individuals with substantial experience in metallurgical coal projects across Australia, Africa and Canada.

Directors & Management:

Board of Directors

- Michael O’Keeffe Chairman
- Steve Mallyon Managing Director
- Gary Lawler Non Executive Director
- Tony Redman Non Executive Director
- Ronnie Beevor Non Executive Director
- Ryan Bennett Non Executive Director

Management

- Anthony Martin Chief Financial Officer
- David Leslie Vice President Technical Services
- Adrian Monk General Manager Group Finance
- Cal Clark Manager Sustainable Development
- Peter Murray Operations Manager
- Marcos Axelsson Exploration Manager

Major Shareholders include:



RCF is a mining-focused private equity firm that partners with companies to build strong, successful and sustainable businesses that strive to produce superior returns to all stakeholders.



Macquarie Group is a leading provider of banking, financial, advisory, investment and funds management services.

How will Grassy Mountain Effect the Community of Crowsnest Pass?



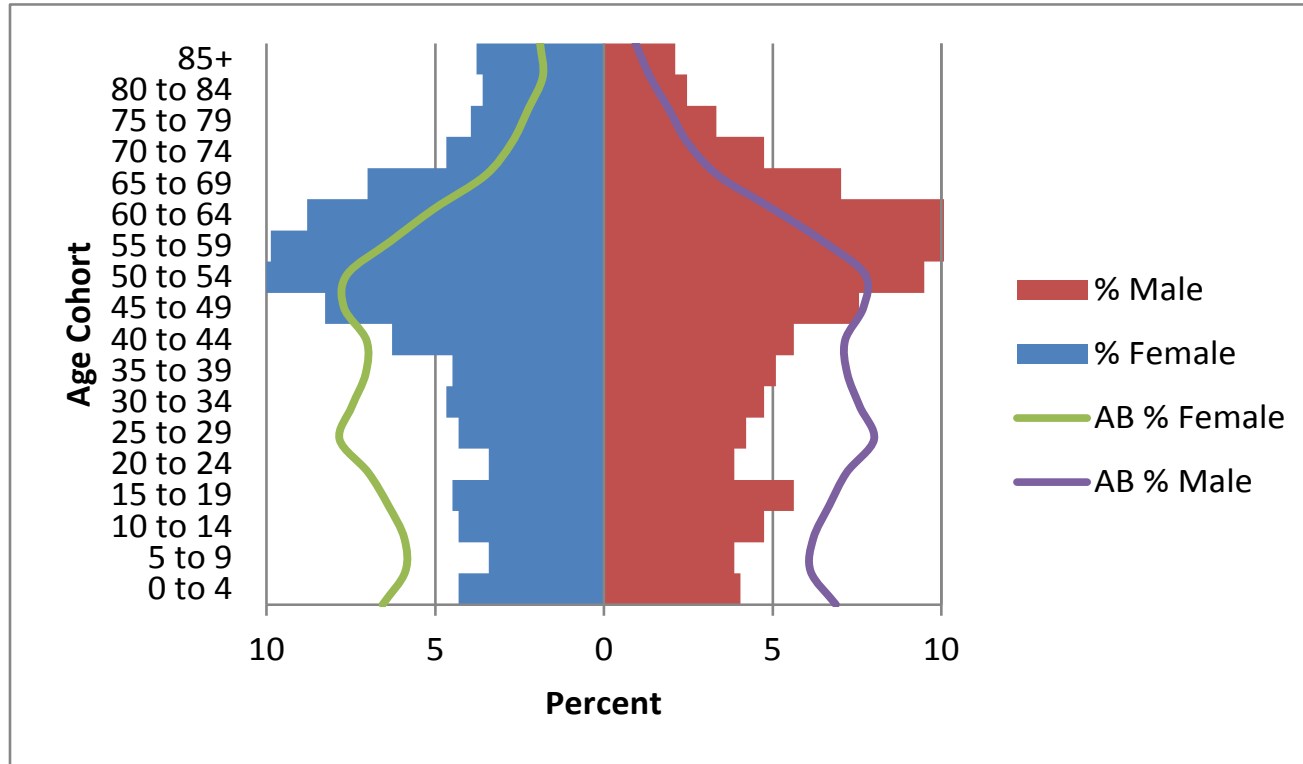
Economically – Current Property Taxes in Crowsnest Pass

	Total number of dwellings	Average assessment value (\$)	Average yearly tax paid (\$)
Single Family	3162	216,298	1,374
Townhouse	15	193,314	1,228

	Residential tax rate	Residential assessment as proportion of all	Annual rate of growth in residential tax rates
Highest	7.598	84% (CNP)	4% (CNP)
Average	4.5402	37%	-1%
Crowsnest Pass	6.3522	84%	4%

How will Grassy Mountain Affect the Community of Crowsnest Pass?

Social – Age Distribution of Crowsnest Pass



- The population of Crowsnest Pass is projected to drop to approximately 5,040 residents by 2021 in the absence of a mine or major development

Social

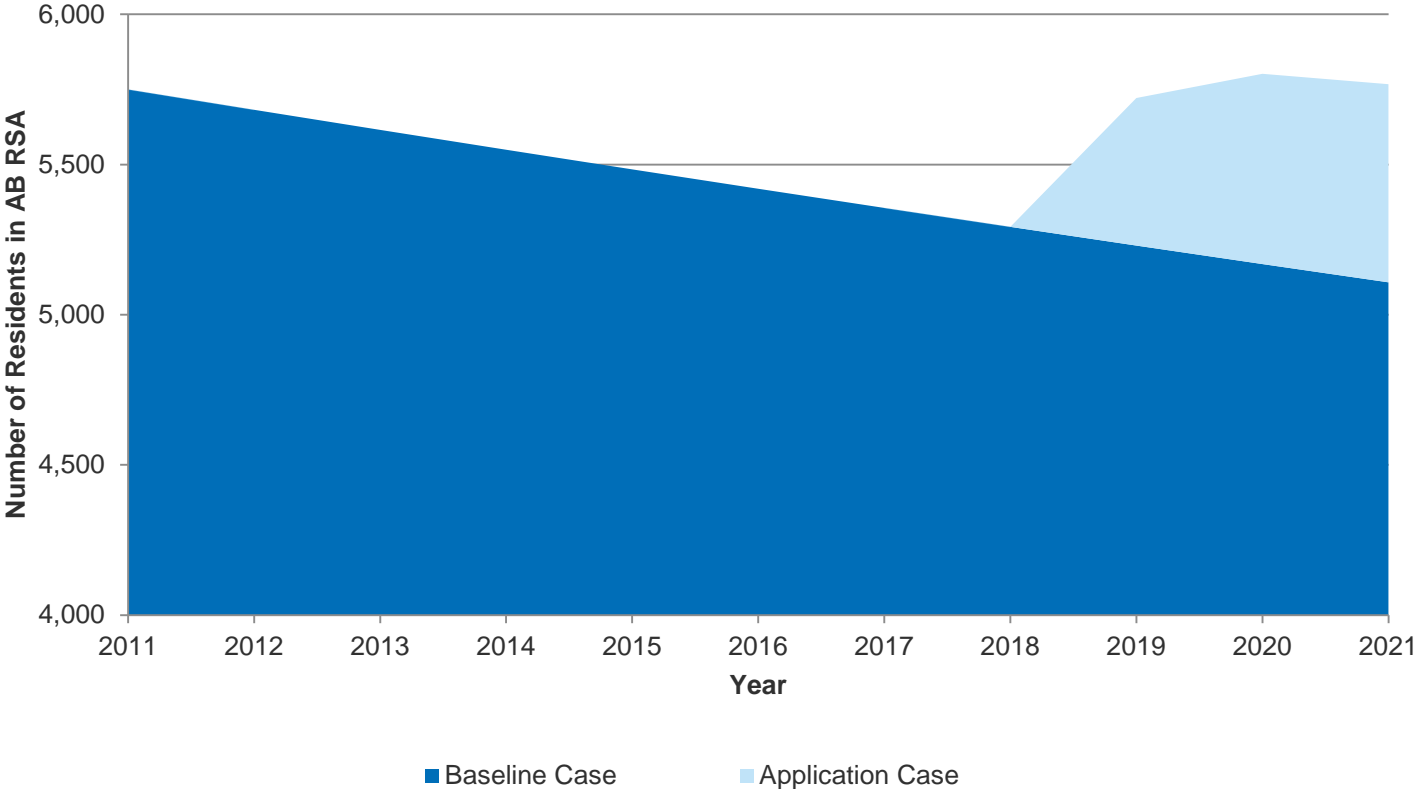
Population Effects

- The Grassy Mountain Coal project is expected to create approximately 1,050 direct and indirect jobs
 - 640 in Alberta
 - 410 in British Columbia
- An estimated 245 direct jobs will be created in the Crowsnest Pass area and 155 in the Town of Sparwood
- These jobs will mainly be filled through in-migration = younger families moving into the community

Social

Expected Increase in Crowsnest Pass Population

- About 660 people are expected to in-migrate to the Crowsnest Pass (employees and families) by 2021



Social

Housing and Infrastructure Effects

- In-migrating families to Crowsnest Pass will need approximately 165 homes by 2021
- Currently, there is a shortage of suitable affordable housing for new workers
- Crowsnest Pass – needs additional serviced lots for affordable housing, upgrades to water and sewage treatment facilities
- Infrastructure in Sparwood exists to support new growth
- Traffic in Crowsnest Pass will increase up to 3% over current levels at peak production

Social

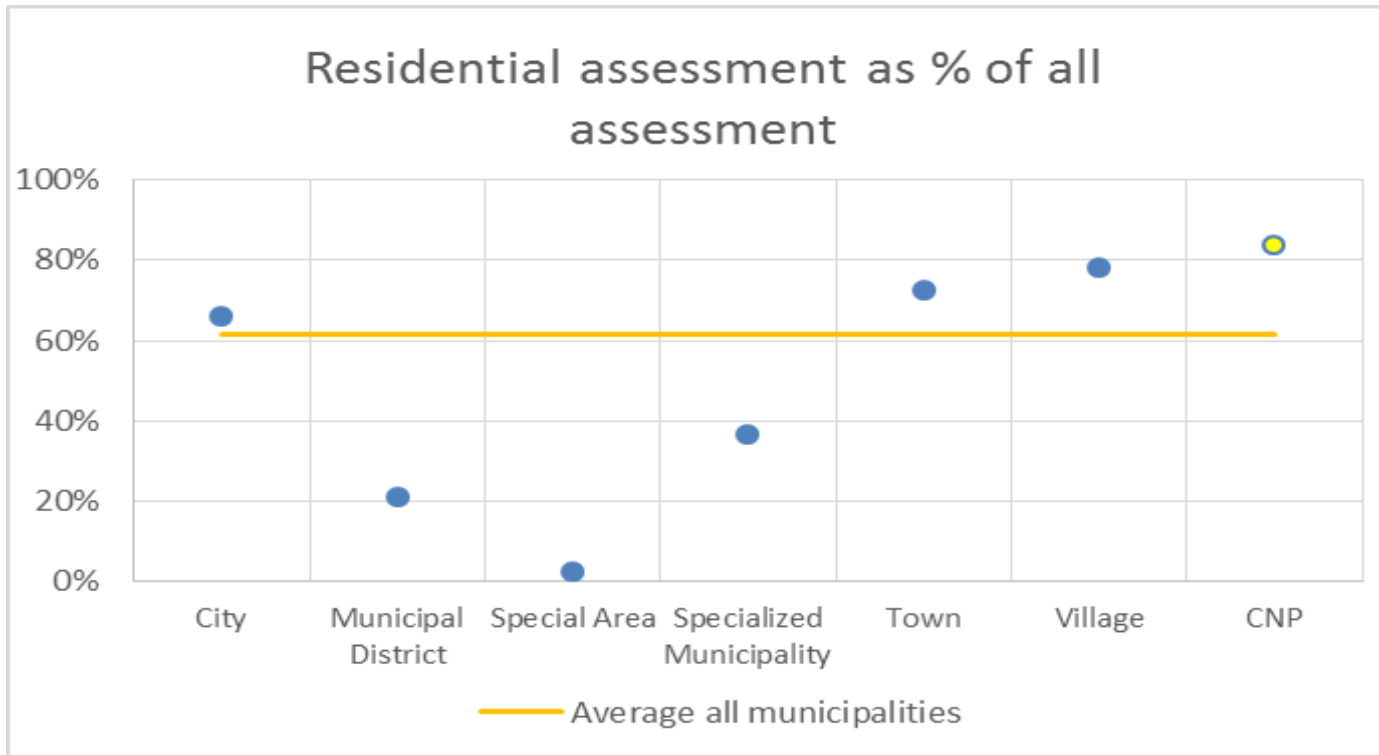
Social Services Effects

Police Services	Fire Services	Ambulance Services	Health Services	Education
RCMP Officers	Staff/Volunteers	Staff	Physicians	Teachers
2	10	3	1	5

- The increase in population will increase the labour pool and volunteer base to support other businesses and community services, e.g, recreation/tourism, hospitality, retail, charities, conservation groups, social services and cultural events

Economic

Current Property Taxes in Crowsnest Pass



- The residential mill rate is **40%** higher than the average mill rate for SMs, provincial average and mirrors that in large cities like Calgary.
- Residential taxes made up **84%** of tax revenue in Crowsnest Pass in 2013 as compared to **37%** in other SMs and **62%**, on average, across all other municipality types in Alberta.

Economic

Employment Income and Economic Stimulus Effects

- During construction, Benga expects to spend nearly \$4 million in the region - Primarily equipment purchases from local suppliers
- During operations, Benga expects to spend nearly \$25 million annually in the region
 - These are largely wages paid to workers living in the region
 - These operations workers are expected to spend much of their income locally
 - Supporting local businesses
 - Creating job opportunities in other sectors
 - Increasing Municipal tax revenue
 - Providing a stable source of income to the community to help grow diversify the local economy



Economic



Government Taxes and Royalty Effects

- Annual municipal property tax payments to Crowsnest Pass are estimated at \$450,000 from the train load out facility
- In 2014, Crowsnest Pass Municipal Taxes brought in \$6.7 million (Project Rail Load out will add 7%)
- In-migration of Project employees will further increase annual Municipal tax revenues
- The Project is expected to pay approximately \$516 in total royalties to the Province
- Benga is expected to pay approximately \$415 million in total income taxes to the provincial government and \$519 million to the federal government over the life of the Project

Environment



Managing Legacy Issues

- In mid July a severe precipitation event occurred on Grassy Mountain that led to a high volume of water runoff from the site of the legacy mine.
- The runoff carried weathered coal, from an exposed coal seam near the top of Grassy Mountain, and unconsolidated waste material, from legacy mine operations dumped on the eastern slope of the mountain, down a steeply graded tributary into Gold Creek.
- The incident was observed by local residents and brought to Riversdale's attention since we were not active in the area at the time. It was also reported by both Riversdale and local residents to provincial and federal authorities.
- Riversdale immediately initiated mitigation measures at the site, installing silt fencing and other measures to prevent any further material from being carried into Gold Creek

Environment

Managing Legacy Issues

- Riversdale continues to work closely with Provincial and Federal authorities (AER, AEP, DFO, CEAA) to investigate the incident and develop suitable mitigation measures to stabilize the site and prevent any further material from entering Gold Creek
- Gold Creek is home to a genetically pure population of West Slope Cutthroat Trout a federally listed species at risk and protected under the federal SARA
- DFO issued an order to Riversdale under the Fisheries Act, to implement reasonable corrective measures to prevent a similar event from occurring at the site. These measures have been taken, developed by a certified engineer with Millenium EMS, and Riversdale continues to monitor and maintain the site reporting regularly to the AER and DFO



Environment

Managing Legacy Issues

- Evidence from the investigation, historical photos and subsequent in-stream assessment indicate such incidents have been occurring at this site since the mine was abandoned in the 1960s, however it was the first time it was ever reported.



Environment

Air Quality

- **Air Quality:** Predictions of combustion emissions were below Alberta ambient air quality objectives (AAQO) at all locations and for all regulated averaging periods in the Baseline case. No predictions were above Alberta AAQOs.
- **Greenhouse Gas:** The maximum equivalent CO₂ emissions from the Project were estimated to be 326 kt/year in 2032. According to Environment Canada (2015), total national GHG emissions were 726 Mt in 2013 and Alberta's share was 36.8% or 267 Mt. Therefore, direct GHG emissions of the Project in 2032 will be approximately 0.12% of 2013 Alberta GHG emissions and 0.04% of national emissions.
- **Climate Change:** the change in climate (over Project life) will have low to no impact on air quality associated with the Project as potential increases in fugitive dust can be managed through adaptive road watering practices.

Environment

Noise

- The noise modelling results indicate that the night-time and day-time Project noise levels, with the addition of the Ambient Sound Levels (ASLs), will be below the Permissible Sound Levels (PSLs) for all residential and theoretical 1,500 m receptors.
- The AER Directive 038 indicates that if the decibel (dB) dBC - dBA sound levels are less than 20 dB, the noise is not considered to have a low frequency tonal component. The Project noise modelling results indicate that the C-weighted (dBC) sound levels will be less than 20 dB above the dBA sound levels for approximately half of the receptors.
- The modelling results indicate the possibility of a low frequency tonal noise near the rail load out. If, upon start-up of the Project, a low frequency noise complaint is received, Benga will conduct a comprehensive sound level (CSL) survey in accordance with the requirements of the AER Directive 038.

Environment

Vegetation

- The assessment approach involved defining terrestrial vegetation and wetland valued components (VC's) and subsequently completing impact analyses related to abundance, distribution, and quality of vegetation and wetland resources in the LSA and RSA
- Vegetation VCs selected included: vegetation communities, rare plants, rangeland resources, forest resources, old growth forests, traditionally used species (Traditional Ecological Knowledge [TEK} vegetation), wetlands, biodiversity and habitat fragmentation. Two additional VCs were assessed: potential acid deposition and nitrogen input, and invasive and noxious species.

Environment

Wildlife

- In addition to determining the presence and distribution of species at risk, the wildlife assessment addressed Project effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Wildlife VCs included olive-sided flycatcher, great gray owl, little brown myotis, western toad, Columbia spotted frog, American marten, Canada lynx, grizzly bear, elk and moose. An additional set of eight wildlife species were selected as special status species for high level assessment – barn swallow, common nighthawk, short-eared owl, bald eagle, golden eagle, wolverine, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep.

Environment

Groundwater

- Potential impacts include operations of surface facilities (spills), mine spoil and effects of pit dewatering.
- A numerical groundwater model was developed to synthesize collected baseline hydrogeological information (water levels, hydraulic conductivity and water chemistry) from the proposed mine area
- A management plan for selenium (and nitrate) will be implemented and as a result bedrock aquifers and water wells are predicted to have low to no groundwater quality impacts associated with mine spoil and mine activities.

Environment

Water Resources

- No direct loss of fish habitat to the main stems of Gold and Blairmore creeks
 - Will be some loss of upper reaches for some tributaries
- Some loss of critical habitat is predicted because of slight reductions in water flow in Gold Creek which could affect fish populations (including WSCTT)
- Losses of habitat will be mitigated through an offset plan which will be developed in conjunction with appropriate provincial and federal agencies
- Foundation of the offset plan will be the existing provincial and federal WSCTT Recovery Plan.
- Riversdale, in collaboration with local conservation, government and academic stakeholders are working to develop a grass roots Stewardship Program for Gold and Blairmore Creeks in support of the WSCTT recovery plan

Environment

C&R Plan

C&R and Closure Plan Goals & Objectives:

- Reclamation material will be salvaged during site construction and preserved for reclamation activities;
- Landforms (slopes and aspects) will be geo-technically stable and will be integrated into the surrounding natural landforms;
- Surface water drainage systems will be designed to minimize erosion rates and sediment loading;
- Reclaimed areas will be developed into self-sustaining ecosystems promoting diverse biodiversity;
- Forest capability, including commercial forestry potential, will be equivalent to pre-development conditions;
- Reclamation certification will be achieved to allow transfer of the lands back to landowners and to the Crown.