



Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada

Prairie and Northern Region Région des Prairies et du Nord
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May 6, 2021

Alberta Energy Regulator
Suite 205, Twin Atria Building
4999 98 Avenue NW
Edmonton AB T6B 2X3

Sent via e-mail: AEREnvironmental.Assessment@aer.ca; inquiries@aer.ca

Re: Provincial Authority and Advice Record for the Proposed Coalspur Mines Ltd. Phase I Vista Test Underground Mine and Vista Mine Phase II Expansion Projects – Input to Summary of Issues

To whom it may concern:

Please respond by May 26, 2021 using the attached form.

On May 5, 2021, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) accepted the Initial Project Description for the Phase I Vista Test Underground Mine and Vista Mine Phase II Expansion Projects (the Projects) from Coalspur Mines (Operations) Ltd. (the proponent) as meeting the requirements of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations* under the *Impact Assessment Act* (the Act). As of today, the 180-day planning phase of the impact assessment has commenced. The Initial Project Description is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80731>.

The Agency has commenced a 20-day comment period (<http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/138949?culture=en-CA>), inviting the public, Indigenous groups and other jurisdictions to provide feedback related to the Projects. Comments will inform the Summary of Issues¹ with respect to the Projects that will be provided to the proponent as per subsection 14(1) of the Act.

¹ Summary of Issues is a list of issues raised in the planning phase prepared by the Agency. This document provides the proponent with an understanding of issues and allows participants to see how their comments and concerns have been characterized.



Request for comments – Due May 26, 2021

Thank you for the previous information provided to the Agency in respect of the Projects. Should you have any additional information to provide, in accordance with section 12 of the Act, the Agency is requesting the input of the Alberta Energy Regulator on the Projects and potential issues that should be addressed in a federal impact assessment, should the Agency determine that to be required.

Attached is **Provincial Authority Advice Record #1: Authority and Summary of Issues** that the Agency is requesting you complete by May 26, 2021. You may also choose to respond in a different format. Alberta Energy Regulator is encouraged to provide as much detail as practicable in describing the potential issues that may be of relevance or concern in relation to the Projects. The Agency encourages you to also provide a concise synopsis of each issue for inclusion in the Summary of Issues.

All comments should be submitted via the *Submit a Comment* feature available on the Projects' Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page (Reference #80731 at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80731>). Letters and forms can be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency using the information provided below for assistance.

Important note: All records produced, collected or received in relation to the impact assessment of the Projects – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* – will be considered public and will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (Reference #80731). Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency before submitting the information. Information marked as confidential will not be accepted without prior contact made with the Agency.

Next steps

Following the provision of the Summary of Issues to the proponent, the proponent will submit a Detailed Project Description in accordance with Schedule 2 of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*, including how it intends to address the Summary of Issues as per subsection 15(1) of the Act.

Following acceptance of the Detailed Project Description, the Agency will determine if an impact assessment is required for the Projects. If so, the Agency will draft the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the various plans, including the Cooperation Plan, for review and comment.

The Agency would engage with the Alberta Energy Regulator on the development of the Cooperation Plan. The Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and plans, which includes the Permitting Plan, the Public Participation Plan, an Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, and the Cooperation Plan, would

be finalized and issued to the proponent on or before day 180 of the planning phase, concluding the planning phase of the Act.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 587-357-6484 or email at IAAC.VistaMine-MineVista.AEIC@canada.ca. If desired, the Agency is also available to meet and discuss the Act.

Sincerely,

<Sent electronically>

Shelly Boss
Project Manager
Prairie and Northern Region

Cc's:

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Attachment:

Provincial Authority Advice Record Form #1: Authority and Summary
of Issues