



May 1, 2020

Stoney Consultation Office
<contact information removed>

Panel Secretariat
Grassy Mountain Coal Project
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency 22nd Floor, 160 Elgin St.
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

Attention: Panel Secretariat
(Via Email: IAAC.GrassyMountain.AEIC@canada.ca)

Sent Via Email

RE: Grassy Mountain Project - Stoney Nakoda Nations Request for time extension to comment period

Dear Sir/Madame,

The Stoney Nakoda Nations (the “Stoney Nakoda”) representing three distinct Nations including, Bearspaw First Nation, Chiniki First Nation and Wesley First Nation, are writing in response to the request issued by the Joint Review Panel (the Panel) for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project (the Project) for comments on the sufficiency and technical merit of the Eleventh Addendum to the environmental assessment (EIA) of the Project. The Panel has requested a written submission of comments by May 4, 2020.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 18, 2020 the Stoney Nakoda declared a State of Local Emergency for its communities of Morley, Big Horn and Eden Valley, as community members face major disruptions in food supply, essential products and services and physical and mental health risks. Due to the adherence to social distancing and office closure guidelines, many Stoney Tribal Administration and Consultation staff are working from home, often in remote locations with limited or no access to computers, internet or other office resources. In addition, many of our staff have been reallocated to sites and activities to assist emerging safety, health and wellness needs of community members. While every effort is being made to respond to consultation requests and to adhere to regulated timelines, the Stoney Consultation Office is strained in its’ capacity and ability to engage with community members and to conduct consultation activities as usual. Under regular circumstances, the Stoney Consultation Office may access external support to address staffing shortages however, in the current provincial and global climate, external support is limited.

In light of the realities and difficulties faced by the Stoney Nakoda we respectfully request an extension of the **May 4, 2020** comment period deadline to **July 3, 2020** to allow for the Stoney Consultation Office to identify and access the support required to provide comment on the EIA Addendum 11 and supporting documents.

We sincerely hope that the Panel Secretariat considers the timeline extension request favourably.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Dean Cherkas, P.Ag.
Director, Consultation
Stoney Tribal Administration

Contact Information

Should you have any questions related to this correspondence, please contact Dean Cherkas at the Stoney Consultation Office:

Stoney Tribal Administration

<contact information removed>

Cc: Ryan Robb, Stoney Tribal Administration
William Snow, Stoney Consultation Manager
Cathy Arcega, Stoney Consultation
Chris Goodstone, Wesley Consultation
Conal Labelle Chiniki Consultation
Larry Daniels Jr., Bearspaw Consultation for Eden Valley
Barry Wesley, Chiniki Consultation for Big Horn
Duane Wesley, Bearspaw Consultation for Morley