



**Tsuut'ina Nation T.U.S. Consultation**  
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**May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Impact Assessment Agency of Canada**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Place Bell**  
**160 Elgin Street**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**  
**KiA-0H3**

**Attention: Shelly Boss, Project Manager**  
**Prairie and Northern Region**

**Re: Coalspur Phase I Vista Test Underground Mine and Vista Mine Phase II Expansion Projects**

**Dzinisi guja,**

Tsuut'ina Nation has concerns in regards to this project and its potential impacts to our Rights to hunt, fish, gather, harvest and conduct ceremonies within the project area.

Our identity as a resilient and fearless Peoples come from the mountains, one of our oral narratives speak of a time when our warriors would trade and acquire a "dark green" rock in which they would make their spears, knives and arrow points. If your encountered warriors with these dark coloured weapons to not engage them, that was our reputation, our warriors would go into conflicts despite being outnumbered and usually came out victorious. We were considered fearless. That fearless has served this Nation well, we are considered progressive and self-sustaining.

Water is medicine and one of the natural elements given to us by Na'to, mining is a huge consumer of water and once it is used it is contaminated and contained in tailing ponds or surface water settling ponds. There is concern that this contaminated water will reach the rivers and impact the terrestrial life surrounding the project. Water must be protected so that all life can be protected.

All terrestrial life is likely impacted by the existing project, animals and plants instinctively know to avoid areas that may hurt them or their reproduction. There are less areas to hunt and harvest, many of our people report they have to travel further distances to hunt or harvest. There is an imbalance, the ecosystem is impacted, when one element or life leaves that is not natural.

Tsuut'ina is experienced in reclamation, we learned hard lessons when an agreement or lease concludes and land is returned but not to a state that it was. We recommend long-term reclamation be addressed now and monitored long after the project concludes.



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There are many other concerns but these are the critical points, we do recommend an Indigenous Advisory Group or Committee be established for this project, made up of representatives from all impacted Nations or Indigenous Groups to monitor, to provide and implement mitigation measures and to hold the project accountable to the regulatory process.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our comments within this Initial Project Description Comment Period.

**Siiyisgaas!**

**<Original signed by>**

**Violet M. Meguinis, B.Ed.**  
**Consultation Director**  
**Tsuut'ina Nation**

**C.C. Tsuut'ina Chief and Council**  
**Monica Onespot, Tsuut'ina Culture and Language Executive Director**  
**File**