

Enclosure 2 : Guiding Questions for this Comment Period

Please respond by May 26, 2021

Coalspur Mines Ltd. - Phase I Vista Test Underground Mine and Vista Mine Phase II Expansion Projects
Canadian Impact Assessment Registry File No.: 80731

The Agency encourages you to use the "Submit a Comment" feature on the Agency's Registry website using reference number: 80731

Indigenous group: Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement			
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We request that you carefully review this form and that you refine your input as appropriate.

Potential Effects and Impacts

1. Please identify any effects of the Projects that are of concern to your community. Also please identify any effects that you are aware of that are not listed in the initial project description. Note: *Information on effects and direct and incidental effects as well as effects within federal jurisdiction are defined in section 2 of IAA¹.*

Our consultation office has reviewed the location of the proposed project area and have identified that Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement members have used the lands that are in close proximity to the proposed site for traditional and harvesting use. Such traditional and harvesting uses include hunting, fishing, gathering and the collection of medicinal plants. Our members continue to practice these rights in the area and will continue to do so well into the unforeseeable future.

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2. Please describe how the potential effects of the Projects could result in changes to your community's:
 - (a) physical and cultural heritage (e.g. ceremonial sites, burial sites, cultural landscapes)

Over the years Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement has collected and compiled an extensive amount of data from our elders and knowledge holders regarding their past traditional harvesting and cultural areas. The mapping and interviews indicate that we have extensive use in the areas that are in close proximity to this project. These areas include Lac Saint Ann Pilgrimage, The rescinded Settlement of Marlboro, Hinton and Edson. Our community is concerned with the increase of traffic in these areas. Cumulative effects of this project are also concerning to our community.

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- (b) current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (e.g. hunting, fishing, trapping)

This project like all other projects will have an increase in traffic, noise etc., during the construction phase. This increase will definitely cause a disturbance resulting in an

¹ A link to IAA text can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/corporate/acts-regulations/legislation-regulations.html>

unpredictable movement of wild game in the immediate area which could impede traditional hunting tactics.

- (c) structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance (e.g. artifacts, important historic buildings or symbols)

At the present time our community is unaware of any historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance in the project area. However, should there be a chance find during any of the project phases, our community would like to be informed.

3. Please describe how the Projects may result in changes (both positive and negative) to your community's :
- (a) health, social or economic conditions (e.g. employment opportunities, easier access to goods and services, economic development, accessibility to health-care services);
ii.

Our community may perhaps gain from employment opportunities and economic development; however, should our community members relocate to the area for employment purposes and seek accommodations for their family, will there be adequate housing available at a none inflated price?

- (a) Indigenous knowledge, indigenous language or indigenous culture.

Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement does not anticipate that this project will not negatively impact our traditional or cultural values.

4. Please describe how the Projects may result in any change (positive or negative) to :
- (a) the intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors (would there be effects to different sub-groups within your community, identified based on factors such as gender, age, race, religion etc.. For example, to women, youth, elders);

Discrimination towards our members regardless of sex, gender race, religion, etc., has always been a concern when our community members leave to work on such projects. In regards to whether this is positive or negative, is based on the policies and procedures in regards to harassment and violence in the workplace and how stringent the hiring company is for polices enforcement.

- (b) sustainability, considering, for example, the interconnectedness and interdependence of human-ecological systems and the well-being of present and future generations.

Buffalo Lake metis Settlement has always been a strong advocate of “keeping the environmental foot print small”. Maximize and reusing existing lands verses introducing new forest cut. Be cognisant of the wildlife and respecting their natural habituate and reproductive cycles. Our ecosystem is very delicate and must be protected to assure that out traditional lands are passed onto the next generation.

5. If you expect the Projects may impact your community's potential and/or established rights, please describe how.

Review of the project as presented does not indicate that it will have a negative effect on our community and its members from exercising our traditional Indigenous rights in the Project area.

Approach to Consultation and Engagement

6. If a federal impact assessment is required for the Projects, the Agency will be developing a draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and, if applicable, will contact you to seek your comments. Please provide information on how you would like to be consulted by the Agency (for example, does your community have specific cultural practices, traditions or protocols, etc.).

We are well versed in all forms of video conferencing communications and have no limitations with the use of any such platforms. In regards to cultural practices, we normally have an opening and closing prayer for in person meetings, however in video conferencing we take a few minutes for silent prayers.

7. If a federal impact assessment is required for the Projects, the Agency will act as the Crown Consultation Coordinator and will be responsible for implementing the Duty to Consult. Do you have any views on how the Agency should work with your community in relation to the assessment of impacts on the potential and/or established rights of your community?

The Crown Consultation Coordinator should meet with our Consultation office to give us the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the project. This first step will be critical in identifying our communities traditional and cultural values. Once this first step is completed, our community would like to be updated if the project will or may negatively impact our traditional and cultural values.

Cyle Desjardais

Print Name of responder
Consultation Office

Title of responder

<Original signed by>

Signature
May 26/2021

Date

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