

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
310 Esplanade E Suite 201
North Vancouver, BC V7L 1A4
iaac.minister-ministre_aeic@canada.ca

cc: stakeholder@bighornmining.com
cc: iaac.vistamine-minevista.aeic@canada.ca

Dear Minister Wilkinson

RE: Vista Test underground Mine and Phase II Expansion Project

It is our understanding that the Federal government is forcing a process on Coalspur Mines (Operations) Ltd that is unnecessary and may be costly to all the people involved with the project. The Descendants of Michel First Nation Association has an agreement with Coalspur Mines (Operations) Ltd. to address potential impacts on Treaty and Aboriginal rights. DMFNA is also involved in a monitoring plan for Phase II to help ensure that there is no environmental impact involving Phase II. If the Coalspur's application for the Vista Test underground Mine and Phase II Expansion Project is not approved, DMFNA and its citizens will be negatively affected. Therefore, we ask that the Federal Government to approve the Coalspur Applications as soon as possible.

On the visit to the site, DMFNA's CEO Brandy Callihoo and President Karl Shott and were impressed at the cutting-edge technology involved in the undertaking of the Mine's operations in phase 1 and saw first-hand that the project is environmentally sound. The mine has already begun reclamation activities of its first mined out panels and the mining operations are clearly operating in an environmentally responsible way. One of our great concerns was the water impact, we were shown and explained to how the mine reclaims the water and feeds it back in safely. The water was clear and unpolluted and is tested several times per week to ensure it can be safely returned into the creek. As we will be involved in monitoring, we are confident that the land will be returned to its original pristine state and possibly better as the traditional land use studies will provide guidance as to traditional habitat, medicines and agriculture so that the wildlife can continue to flourish. It's also our understanding that disallowing phase II WILL negatively impact The Indigenous communities and the local economy of Hinton and surrounding areas, as Vista is an equal opportunity employer and employs many locals and non-locals.

DMFNA would like it to be understood that the Vista Test underground mine and Phase II Expansion Project is supported by our Nation, without the need for a federal review.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Brandy Callihoo
CEO, Descendants of Michel First Nation
<email address removed>
<personal information removed>