



Tsuut'ina Nation TUS Consultation
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August 23rd, 2021

**Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Prairie and Northern Region
Canada Place
Suite 1145, 9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J-4C3**

**To: Allison Lefebvre
Senior Consultation Advisor**

Re: Coalspur Mines Ltd – Phase I Vista Test Underground Mine and Vista Mines II Expansion Projects

Dzinisi guja,

In response to the August 3rd, 2021 letter, the Tsuut'ina Nation has comments and additional views regarding potential beneficial and adverse impacts to our Nation in regards to this project.

Tsuut'ina Nation will always have concerns of potential impacts to our Treaty and Inherent Rights to hunt, fish, gather, harvest and conduct ceremonies within our traditional territory.

As stated previously, we have only begun our engagement with this project, we have completed a site tour and conducted a pipe ceremony on the project site. For Tsuut'ina it is our practice to begin new projects with ceremony to ensure we start in a good way and to prepare all living things of potential impacts.

Our primary focus is reclamation, we are pleased with the reclamation process that was shown to us, by using the original top soil it ensures all its original seeds and nutrients will be contained, we are anxious to revisit the site and see the growth outcome. We have asked to revisit periodically to monitor their reclamation process.

The site has an abundance of medicinal plants and trees that are vital to our health and wellbeing, we have found four tree species within the site that we use to make a medicine that combat Covid and other respiratory diseases.

We noticed some environmental impacts, it could be the recent heat wave or perhaps climate change, we found berries that should have been perfect to harvest but they seem to ripen earlier than normal and were dried out. We also notice plants are smaller and closer to the ground so that indicates affects to its root system and its growth.

We did not observe any animals but did observe birds and various insect species. Usually animals stay away from human activity but we were told they have seen bears in the area.



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We have less areas to hunt, fish and harvest, this is our constitutional right but we can't practice it as we did before, private land owners will not allow it and there isn't enough crown land suitable for these activities.

We are interested in employment and business opportunities but we have just begun to discuss this and we do expect to pursue this further.

To conduct ceremonies today is a challenge, our Elders have asked us to look for areas of solitude, places they can conduct their visioning and fasting ceremonies. These ceremonies are tied to the care and rejuvenation of our sacred bundles without these areas of solitude it will impact our core identity and wellbeing.

Our Elders speak of the mountains with great reverence, they say that's where we got our reputation, we were considered a fearless Peoples. Our oral narratives tell us at one time, if you encountered a warrior with dark arrows, spears or knives to avoid them or not engage them, this was a Tsuut'ina warrior. The dark arrows, spears or knives were thought to be green obsidian which is found in the mountains and we know it was probably traded as well. Despite being out numbered our warriors would go in and come out victorious, this warrior spirit has served us well, we are known to be innovative and risk takers in economic development ventures and we are becoming self-sustaining.

We have established a good working relationship with Coalspur and their representatives, our request for a ceremony was accommodated and financially supported. We are still early in our consultation and the designation request for this project does not give Tsuut'ina sufficient time to gather our baseline information or make informed recommendations.

We ask that the Agency keep us informed and if you require further information please contact us.

Siyisgaas!

<Original signed by>

Violet M. Meguinis, Consultation Director

C.C. Monica Onespot, Culture and Language Executive Director

Emmett Crowchild, Councilor

Stanley Big Plume, Councilor

Chief and Council

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