

ATTACHMENT:
Federal Authority Advice Record: Reconsideration for designation
Response due by August 13, 2021
Proposed Vista Coal Mine expansion physical activities

Department/Agency	Health Canada
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1. Has your department or agency considered whether it has an interest in the proposed physical activities; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the physical activities; or taken any course of action (including provision of financial assistance) that would allow the physical activities to proceed in whole or in part?

Specify as appropriate.

[Not applicable \(N/A\)](#)

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2. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the physical activities to enable it to proceed?

If yes, specify that power, duty or function and its legislative source.

[N/A](#)

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3. If your department or agency will exercise a power or perform a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the physical activities, will it involve public and Indigenous consultation?

Specify as appropriate.

[N/A](#)

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4. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other parties in relation to the physical activities?

Provide an overview of the information or advice exchanged.

No

5. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to any potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction caused by the physical activities or adverse direct or incidental effects stemming from the physical activities?

Specify as appropriate.

As a federal authority, Health Canada will provide specialist or expert information and knowledge in the Department's possession (expertise) to support the assessment of impacts on human health from projects considered individually or cumulatively under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). It should also be noted that expertise related to assessing human health that is relevant to impact assessment (IA) may be held by other federal, provincial, and municipal partners, reflecting the shared jurisdiction for environmental and human health within Canada. For example, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has expertise in the social determinants of health approach and health equity, and may provide that expertise through Health Canada, upon request from the reviewing body(ies). How the expertise provided by Health Canada and PHAC will be used in the IA process will ultimately be determined by the reviewing body(ies).

Health Canada can provide human health expertise in the following areas:

- Air quality health effects;
- Contamination of country foods (e.g. fish, wild game, garden produce, berries, etc.);
- Drinking and recreational water quality;
- Radiological effects;
- Electric and magnetic fields;
- Noise impacts;
- Methodological expertise in human health risk assessment (HHRA);
- Methodological expertise in conducting Health Impact Assessment (HIA); and
- Public health emergency management of toxic exposure events.

Available Health Canada guidance:

Health Canada has published the following guidance documents for evaluating human health impacts:

Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/publications/healthy-living.html#a2.5>

- Human Health Risk Assessment
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Country Foods
- Noise
- Radiological Impacts

Guidance prepared by Health Canada on management of crude oil incidents is available as a PDF and in html format through the following link:

- Guidance for the environmental public health management of crude oil incidents: a guide intended for public health and emergency management practitioners:
<http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.849592/publication.html>

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6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, does the physical activities have the potential to cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects as described in section 2 of IAA? Could any of those effects be managed through legislative or regulatory mechanisms administered by your department or agency? If a licence, permit, authorization or approval may be issued, could it include conditions in relation to those effects?

Specify as appropriate.

In the Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR) response to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada on May 25, 2021, Health Canada identified some key issues and potential requirements that are likely to be relevant for the Project. As noted in the previous FAAR response, the Project is in an area where traditional land use is practiced. Additionally, the initial project description indicates that the proponent has engaged several Indigenous communities who have raised concerns about impacts to country foods and food security. Thus, the Project may have the potential to cause adverse effects on the health of the Indigenous peoples of Canada, which is within federal jurisdiction. As per the previous FAAR response, there is insufficient information at this time to confirm the extent of any potential human health-related adverse direct or incidental effects as described in Section 2 of

the IAA. HC is not a regulatory body and does not issue any approvals or make any regulatory decisions relevant to development projects.

Brenda Woo
Name of departmental / agency responder

Regional Manager
Title of responder

2021-08-10
Date