

Enclosure 2: Guiding Questions for Vista Coal Mine Phase II Expansion Project Designation Request

Please respond by October 1, 2024

Designation Request for the Proposed Vista Coal Mine Phase II Expansion Project under the *Impact Assessment Act*

Potential Effects and Impacts

1. Please describe whether and how the potential adverse effects of the Project could result in changes to your community's:

- (a) physical and cultural heritage (e.g. ceremonial sites, burial sites, cultural landscapes)

Alexander is concerned about the Projects' potential adverse impacts on the archaeological sites, ceremonial sites, burial sites, and cultural landscapes connected to Alexander's Indigenous teachings. Of the 45 precontact and historical sites associated with the project area (and 38 located in Phase I), Alexander was provided capacity and an opportunity to conduct a fulsome Traditional Land and Resource Use Study in the RSAs and LSAs for these projects, Alexander's information should help inform any mitigation strategies proposed by the proponent for the HRI Assessment Area. Alexander requests the proponent engage with the Historical Resources Branch in relation to these sites, as there are up to four significant historical resource sites recorded and the 179 archaeological sites mentioned in the IPD that are significant to Alexander, so these are the sites Alexander is currently mitigating with the proponent to avoid.

Alexander's ancestors are connected to the Foothills Ojibway First Nation (FOFN) and their ancestors. Members of the Foothills Ojibway First Nation includes families that have engaged with in the past and continue to engage with today with members and families of Alexander in the practice of ceremony and traditional land-based teachings. Also, Alexander conducted a Terrestrial Studies Initiative TSI with the department of Natural Resources Canada with a report completed in 2022 which could inform the engagement process on these Projects should the proponent wish to review this Report; as, the regional study area (RSA) in the TSI encompasses Coalspur's Projects' RSAs and LSAs.

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

Hunting: Alexander has concerns regarding the Project's impacts to the quality and quantity of wildlife including impacts to sensitive areas such as salt licks, beaver dams, bear dens, game trails, eagles' nests etc. and impacts to wildlife from air emissions, water contamination, etc. Impacts on wildlife and animals have impacts on Alexander and Alexander members treaty right to hunt.

Fishing: Alexander has concerns regarding the Project's impacts to fish and fish habitat. Impacts on fish and fish habitat have impacts on Alexander and Alexander members treaty right to fish.

Gathering: Alexander has concerns regarding impacts to the quality and quantity of vegetation including impacts to food plants, berry species, medicinal and ceremonial plants. Impacts on vegetation has impacts on Alexander members ability to gather and ability to practice ceremony. This is why it is very important to Alexander that we have agreement with Coalspur that we will be conducting annual studies and monitoring of the Project area for the life of the mine.

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

Archaeological, ceremonial sites, burial sites, cultural landscapes connected to indigenous teachings: Alexander has concerns regarding impacts to burial, spiritual and ceremonial sites, trails, and ancestral (archaeological) sites. Alexander notes there may also be historical trailways within the Projects RSAs and LSAs of historical and contemporary importance to Alexander in relation to Alexander's current TSI Report with Natural Resources Canada. So, Alexander is open to sharing the TSI Report with the proponent to inform these discussions.

2. Please describe how the Project 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);

According to the IPD, Phase I, the Vista Mine provides employment to more than 300 individuals, many of whom are from local Indigenous groups in the area. Alexander businesses like "Alexander Safety" has been granted the safety contract for the mine site. Alexander also conducts environmental and archaeological monitoring of the site. The proponent continues to have discussions with Alexander First Nation in regards to economic opportunities with regards to the projects.

- (b) Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous language or Indigenous culture.

Alexander has benefited from being provided with support from Coalspur in regards to supporting some local programs and cultural initiatives. Also, Coalspur has provided support to conduct meetings and an open house with Alexander's members including elders. Through a number of recent meetings, Coalspur has gained more knowledge of what is important to Alexander and currently there has been a desire expressed from Coalspur to keep meeting with Alexander on a regular basis. This is to include participation in Alexander's Treaty 101 training course which takes a very thorough historic and factual look at the effects on Treaty 6 since it's inception.

3. Please describe how the Project 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);

There has been Alexander people and Alexander businesses working at the Coalspur Vista mine site for a couple of years now and no complaints regarding gender, age, race or other personal factors have become apparent.

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

Alexander will be doing environmental, and archaeological studies on the mine area on an annual basis to continually be aware of any issues that need to be mitigated.

4. If you expect the Project may impact your community's rights as protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, please describe how.

5.

Circa 1910, Alexander's ancestors, known to be occupying lands within Jasper National Park and east of the park and along the foothills were evicted and removed from Jasper National Park. Those lands are associated within Alexander's asserted traditional territory and culturally significant in terms of ceremony and cultural teachings, historical sites, etc. Although in 2010, Parks Canada began to engage with Indigenous groups living in Jasper National Park, Alexander has not been engaged pending the results of our Terrestrial Studies Initiative (TSI). The TSI Report completed in 2022 is meant to inform not only that process but Alexander's participation in Alberta's Geodata Mapping Project, as well as inform any mitigation strategies for these 2 Projects by Coalspur.

Alexander is concerned that the projects will cause potential adverse impacts on Alexander and its member's aboriginal and treaty rights including potential adverse effects to areas that are within federal jurisdiction that impact our rights. The Project is located within Treaty 6 territory on provincial crown land that is within Alexander's asserted Traditional Territory and would adversely impact Alexander First Nation members ability to exercise our rights. As such, it has been very important to Alexander that we have an agreement with Coalspur that allows Alexander to be part of studies regarding: environmental, including water, and archaeological studies and monitoring within the Phase II mine site area on an annual basis.

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