



MONTANA FIRST NATION LANDS & CONSULTATION

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October 1, 2024

Sent via email: vistamine-minevista@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
22nd Floor, Place Bell
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

Re: Request for Designation of the Vista Coal Mine Phase II Expansion Project and Vista Underground Mine Project

I am writing on behalf of the Montana First Nation in response to the designation request for the two expansions related to the Vista Coal Mine near Hinton, Alberta: the Vista Coal Mine Phase II Expansion Project and the Vista Underground Mine Project (the Expansions).

We respectfully request that the Minister designate the Expansions under section 9(1) of the Impact Assessment Act (SC 2019, c 28, s 1).

To date, Coalspur Mines (Operations) Ltd. (the Proponent) has not engaged or consulted with the Nation or its citizens regarding the Expansions. Due to this lack of consultation, the Nation seeks designation to ensure our Treaty, Aboriginal, and Inherent Rights are protected. A federal impact assessment would provide a clear consultation process and enable the Nation to thoroughly evaluate the Project. It is crucial that we fully understand the potential impacts on our rights, as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, before any further progress is made.

We strongly recommend that the Project undergo a federal review before advancing any further. Additionally, we would like to remind the Agency of the Crown's duty to consult and the importance of upholding this responsibility. The Montana First Nation is committed to fostering respectful dialogue and relationships, and we hope the Agency will embrace these principles as well.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Kinanâskomitin,

<Original signed by>

—
Kyra Northwest
Montana First Nation
Consultation and Lands Manager

c.c.: Chief Ralph Cattleman
Councillor Joan Currie
Councillor Simone Pipestem
Councillor Treyvon Pipestem
Councillor Clainia Potts
Band Administrator, Jodie. B Currie
Administrative Manager, Leanne Louis
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