



Vista Coal Mine Phase II Expansion Project  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
9700 Jasper Avenue, Suite 1145  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4C3  
Telephone: 780-495-2037  
Email: [vistamine-minevista@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:vistamine-minevista@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

The Honorable Steven Guibeault MP  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
200 Sacre'-Coeur Boulevard  
Gateneau QC K1A 0H3

September 20, 2024

Dear Mr. Guibeault,

I am writing to express my support of Coalspur's Vista Mine and the Phase II expansion project. In my opinion, a federal assessment is unnecessary as there are other means already in place, both provincially and federally, to address any potential adverse effects from the mining operation.

As it was explained to me, Phase II is not a new mining project, rather it is a westward extension of the current operation. The Vista Mine is the most progressive and environmentally friendly mining operation in Canada. Mined areas are progressively reclaimed and the overall disturbance footprint stays the same as Phase II is mined. As production from the existing Phase I mining area ramps down, production from Phase II will ramp up. Current production levels will be maintained. The average annual coal production from the Vista Mine will not increase with the Phase II approval. Coalspur has fully reclaimed 60 hectares of previously mined out area and has another 80 hectares of area with vegetative soil placed ready to plant. Phase II will utilize the existing infrastructure of Phase I including conveyor belts, raw and clean coal storage areas, coal preparation and rail loadout. For clarity, no new infrastructure is needed to mine Phase II. None.

Phase II is expected to generate over \$260 million of royalties and taxes for Alberta over the life of the project with an additional \$180 million in federal taxes. The Vista Mine employs over 460 people, many of whom live in Hinton supporting the local economy



and businesses. The Vista Mine offers opportunities for qualified local Indigenous businesses and employment opportunities for qualified Indigenous workers.

The potential negative aspects of Phase II can be analyzed rather than speculated about by studying what has actually occurred in Phase I. Phase II does not need a federal designation to study its impacts. This can be verified by looking at Phase I.

Our family business began in Hinton in 1955 and as an independent food retailer, Freson Bros. is proud of our deep connection and strong commitment to the 16 Alberta communities we are privileged to serve, a legacy we now continue after my father's lifelong advocacy and dedication to his vision of community development and progress.

Sincerely,  
<Original signed by>

Michael Lovsin  
Chairman  
Freson Market Ltd.

cc.

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Mr. Gerald Soroka  
Member of Parliament for Yellowhead

Mr. Martin Long  
Member of the Legislative Assembly for Yellowhead

Mr. Nicholas Nissen  
Mayor, Town of Hinton