

Dear Minister Cox,

24 May 2016

Re: Environmental Impact Assessment: Yancoal Southey Project – Public Participation

Pursuant to Section 12 of the Environmental Assessment Act, please accept this written submission regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) for the Yancoal Southey Project.

We request that the Government of Saskatchewan commission a comprehensive independent environmental impact study on the Yancoal Southey Project in accordance with Section 14(1) of the Environmental Assessment Act and that you reserve your decision until this study is completed and concerns raised are suitably addressed by your Ministry and by Yancoal.

Our goal is to ensure the sustainability of the economy, the environment, and the social and cultural values. We have the following concerns with the Yancoal EIS

Water & Climate Change:

The Yancoal Southey Project EIS indicates that the mining process will require 8 million gallons per day of water for the next 100 years and that this water will be drawn from Buffalo Pound Lake. We are concerned that this will negatively affect the water supply to the City of Regina, City of Moose Jaw, impacting the Upper and Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed. Research by P.A.R.C. (Prairie Adaptation Research Consortium) indicates that climate change will have a significant influence on the amount of water entering Diefenbaker Lake and flowing into Buffalo Pound Lake.

We request that an independent comprehensive study of the effects of the water usage by Yancoal on the underground aquifers in the vicinity, Lake Diefenbaker, Buffalo Pound and the Qu'Appelle lakes be undertaken. The study must take into account climate change modeling and the resultant long-term economic and environmental impacts on drinking water supply, agriculture and tourism.

Monitoring:

Loon Creek is a major tributary to Pasqua Lake and is 3 miles from the proposed Yancoal Mine tailing ponds and salt piles. The EIS does not include a specific plan for monitoring surface water contamination. We request that the independent comprehensive study address and provide specific requirements for an ongoing public surface water monitoring process.

Quill Lakes:

At a recent public consultation meeting, Yancoal was receptive to using saline low quality water from the Quill Lakes for their mining process. We request that the option of using water from the Quill lakes as a source for the Yancoal mine process be assessed jointly by the Water Security Agency and SaskWater. This may provide a possible solution to the flooding in the Quill Lakes area and mitigate the impact such flooding would have downstream.

Further research and participatory engagement will help us "Get it Right". We look forward to your response. Thank you for your time.

First and Last Name

Preferred Contact Info _____
