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## Update on the Cheviot Mine

By Phil Clement, AWA Conservation Biologist

Cardinal River Coals is keeping us updated on the progress of their application for a new private haulroad. Their newsletter explains that they submitted an application for an amendment to the Cheviot Mine permit and the environmental approval for the Luscar mine to seek regulatory approval to construct a 10 km private haulroad to link the two mine sites. Instead of building a processing plant at the Cheviot Mine site, the haulroad would be used to haul raw coal from the Cheviot to the Luscar mine site where it would be processed and shipped.

The Alberta government is currently reviewing the application, which will be followed by a public notification process, to be completed early in the new year. The company is soliciting feedback on the project and more information can be obtained by contacting Fred Munn, Project Manager, (780) 692-5184, [fred\\_munn@luscar.com](mailto:fred_munn@luscar.com). AWA has already written to the company to express our concerns and restate our objection to the Cheviot Mine.

On October 22, 2002, nine local, provincial, and national organizations wrote federal Environment Minister David Anderson, asking that he require an environmental impact assessment and hold public hearings on the new proposal for development of the Cheviot Mine. The organizations were the Jasper Environmental Protection Association, the Alberta Wilderness Association, Environmental Resource Centre of Alberta, Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, Toxics Watch Society, Sierra Club-Prairie Chapter, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Canadian Nature Federation, and Mining Watch Canada.

The organizations also sent a formal "statement of concern" to Alberta Environment Minister Lorne Taylor and to the Alberta Energy & Utilities Board (AEUB) asking that the current applications for development of Cheviot and a larger mine permit be turned down. They likewise asked that an environmental impact assessment be required and public hearings held before proceeding with a decision on the applications.

