



ALBERTA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

"Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action"

Keith Bott
Riversdale Resources Ltd.
PO Box 660
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Blairmore AB T0K 0E0
Via email: keith.bott@rivresources.com

October 31, 2014

Dear Mr. Bott,

Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) has been made aware of the drilling occurring on the Grassy Mountain Coal Mine, north of Blairmore. We have inserted below a photo taken Sunday, October 19, 2014, showing drill waste flowing down the side of the Mine and seemingly into a very pristine waterway below.



AWA works throughout Alberta towards more representative and connected protection of Alberta's unique and vital landscapes that are the source of our abundant clean water, clean air and vital habitat for wildlife in each one of our six natural regions. We are particularly concerned with any substances from the Riversdale Mine entering into important headwaters such as Gold Creek and its tributaries. Gold Creek and its tributaries flow through private property, provide drinking water for eastern communities and wildlife, and provide spawning habitat for threatened westslope cutthroat trout.

We would like answers to the following questions:

- Was Riversdale aware of this drill waste being released?
- Do you have an Environmental Monitor on site?
- What are the contents of this drill waste?
- Why is the drill waste not entering into a containment pond instead of being released over the side of the mountain?
- What steps are being taken to ensure elevated levels of selenium, and other harmful heavy metals, will not occur in surrounding waterways?
- What precautions are in place to protect critical habitat of federally threatened westslope cutthroat trout in waterways below the mine?

AWA has a long-standing interest in the Crowsnest Pass and Livingstone areas. Concerns for wildlife habitat and the headwaters have been foremost as we seek protection of the high ecological and recreational values in perpetuity. AWA would like to have more information and trust you will send answers to the above questions as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

ALBERTA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION



Brittany Verbeek
AWA Conservation Specialist

cc:

Bill Weary, Deputy Minister Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
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