

# **Grassy Mountain Mine Will Compromise Seriously the Welfare of Albertans**

*October 27, 2020*



Today marked the beginning of the Joint Review Panel hearings into the Grassy Mountain Coal Project – an Australian company’s plan for an open-pit strip mine in Alberta’s Crowsnest Pass.

Alberta Wilderness Association, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Extinction Rebellion, the Grassy Mountain Group, Livingstone Landowners Group, and Timberwolf Wilderness Society add their voices to oppose this venture. The Joint Review Panel must not approve this project. The Panel’s decision will set an important precedent for the other foreign-owned coal mining companies that hope to strip mine Alberta’s Eastern Slopes.

“Pursuant to the federal impact assessment law, the Joint Review Panel should find that the Grassy Mountain project will cause significant adverse environmental effects and that those effects are not justified in the circumstances,” says Dr. Ian Urquhart, AWA Conservation Director. “As our experts will argue during the hearings, Benga Mining has severely understated

the costs of this project and exaggerated the benefits.”

Much of the mine’s proposed footprint is located in one or more environmentally significant areas. It will destroy species at risk such as Whitebark Pine and will destroy the critical habitat of threatened westslope cutthroat trout – another species at risk. In addition, the project poses unjustifiable risks to the air and water quality of those who live downstream and downwind of this project. It will cause irreparable damage to the lands and waters that are at the heart of Alberta’s identity.

“Protecting these areas is a step toward protecting the health of Alberta. In order to protect the well-being of future generations of Albertans we must say no to coal today.”

- *Dr. Andrea Hull, Cdn Assn of Physicians for the Environment*

“Approving this mine would be a step backwards for Alberta. We need to protect what part of the natural world we have left.”

- *Erica Guglielmin, Extinction Rebellion Calgary*

“The Grassy Mountain Mine not only cannot be approved as designed, but no conceivable change in the mine plan would make it legal under the *Species at Risk Act* to either approve or to build.”

- *Dave Mayhood, Timberwolf Wilderness Society*

**For more information:**

Dr. Ian Urquhart, Alberta Wilderness Association, (780) 937-4692

Dr. Andrea Hull, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, (403) 561-7155

Erica Guglielmin, Extinction Rebellion Calgary, (403) 464-6129

Dave Mayhood, Timberwolf Wilderness Society, (403) 283-8865



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