

Montem's Tent Mountain Coal Mine Project Must Undergo a Federal Impact Assessment

June 28, 2021

Earlier this afternoon, Federal Environment and Climate Change Minister Jonathan Wilkinson announced that the Tent Mountain Redevelopment Project must undergo a federal impact assessment. Minister Wilkinson gave numerous reasons for designating Montem's mine proposal for an assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Those reasons include the potential effects on transboundary environments, First Nations, and fish/fish habitat. The uncertain effectiveness of proposed technologies to address the pollution from selenium and other harmful substances gave added importance to those effects.

"This decision should be applauded by all who believe environmental assessments should be inclusive, participatory processes," said Alberta Wilderness Association's Ian Urquhart. "In federal assessments," he said, "the views of concerned citizens will not be excluded by the "directly and adversely affected" test that restricts the ability of the public to participate in purely provincial environmental assessments."

AWA is very pleased to see the Minister recognize that the transboundary character and impacts of this project cannot be dealt with adequately through a single, provincial assessment. AWA expects Montem shareholders will react very negatively to this news when the Australian Securities Exchange opens at 6pm Mountain Daylight Time. AWA looks forward to reprise the role it played in the Grassy Mountain Coal Project Joint Review Panel Hearing if Montem survives and can find the capital needed to prepare an impact assessment.

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