

Contact Minister Wilkinson to Oppose Montem's Application for a \$5 million Federal Grant

January 22, 2022

Below you will find the text of a letter AWA just sent to federal Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson. Therein we ask Minister Wilkinson to reject Montem Resources' application for up to \$5 million from the federal Clean Fuels Fund to finance a feasibility study into the Tent Mountain Renewable Energy Complex.

Montem only conjured this project last October and I am very suspicious about Montem's intentions.

To be considered at all for federal assistance Montem must commit to get out of the coal mining business. It must surrender all of its coal mining leases in southern Alberta and withdraw the Tent Mine Redevelopment Project from the just started federal impact assessment process. Please join AWA in objecting to Montem receiving any federal assistance until such time as it gets out of the coal mining business. I would love to receive copies of any correspondence you send on this issue.

Please also copy the other federal M.P.s we copied on our letter to Minister Wilkinson. As AWA notes at the end of our letter - Montem's coal mining plans are the antithesis of the future the federal Clean Fuels Fund wants to help build. Montem must do more to walk its green energy talk.

Thanks for your support.

- Ian Urquhart, Executive Director

January 22, 2022

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson,
Minister of Natural Resources,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Re: Montem Resources' Application to the Federal Clean Fuels Fund

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

Alberta Wilderness Association, formed in 1965, is one of the oldest wilderness conservation organizations in Alberta. Formed around a kitchen table within sight of the landscapes that concern us in this letter, AWA now has more than 7,500 members and supporters; you will find our members in 227 Alberta communities as well as elsewhere in Canada and around the world.

AWA wrote to you before, in your previous portfolio as Minister of Environment and Climate Change, with respect to the resource exploitation plans of Montem Resources in Alberta. Like others we urged you to designate Montem's Tent Mountain Mine Redevelopment Project for an assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act of Canada*. Given the potential adverse effects of this project, and the cumulative effects that Montem's other coal mining ambitions would deliver, we were pleased to see you designate Montem under the federal legislation last year.

This letter concerns Montem Resources' application for a grant of up to \$5 million from the Clean Fuels Fund to help finance Montem's feasibility studies into the concept of building a Renewable Energy Complex at Tent Mountain. The idea behind this concept certainly has merit. AWA, however, is not convinced that Montem's corporate history and ambitions in southwest Alberta are those of a company with a genuine interest in developing renewable energy. In order to show that Montem has a genuine interest in this project, and should be seriously considered for some or all of the \$5 million grant it has applied for, Montem should first surrender all of its coal leases in south west Alberta. It also should withdraw its Tent Mountain Mine Redevelopment Project – a coal mining project – from the federal impact assessment process initiated recently.

In the "TM-REX Overview" video on Montem's Tent Mountain Renewable Energy Complex website (<https://tentmountain-rex.com>) Montem's Managing Director and CEO Peter Doyle describes this project as having "the potential to be a paradigm shift for green energy in Alberta." Later in that same video Ben Saffron, a green hydrogen consultant, describes the project as "transformative" for the company. In the "TM-REX Launch" video Doyle says: "The world's changing and we have this unique opportunity with one of our assets to repurpose the existing assets that are there away from coal and towards renewable energy..."

With respect, these claims about wanting to be part of a paradigm shift or transform the company have little credibility for as long as Montem is committed to pursuing metallurgical coal mining in the southern Alberta Rockies. Its intention to conduct feasibility studies, with hoped for taxpayer support, doesn't diminish the company's coal mining commitment at all. In fact, some of the money ostensibly raised recently on the Australian Securities Exchange for the Renewable Energy Complex could be used to supply working capital for its coal mining plans. Furthermore, Montem's intention to continue with the federal impact assessment process for its Tent Mountain Coal Project demonstrates its continuing commitment to coal mining. So too do the company's plans to exploit the 193 square kilometres of coal leases it has in southern Alberta (154 square kilometres of which are on Crown land). Those lands are linked to its Tent Mountain, Chinook, Oldman, 4-Stack, and Isola projects (see Appendix One below). In fact, while its December 2021 investor presentation trumpeted the transformative Tent Mountain Renewable Energy Complex, Montem also wrote there: "Montem continues its strategy to develop its world class coking coal assets in the Crowsnest Pass."

In AWA's opinion, to be considered seriously for a federal Clean Fuels Fund grant Montem must abandon altogether its plans for coal mining along Alberta's Eastern Slopes. Putting aside for a moment the significant potential adverse effects those mines will have on Canada's lands, waters, and wildlife, those Montem operations will increase global greenhouse gas emissions – the antithesis of the future the Clean Fuels Fund wants to contribute to.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,
ALBERTA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Dr. Ian Urquhart
Executive Director
iurquhart@abwild.ca
(780) 937-4692

cc. Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

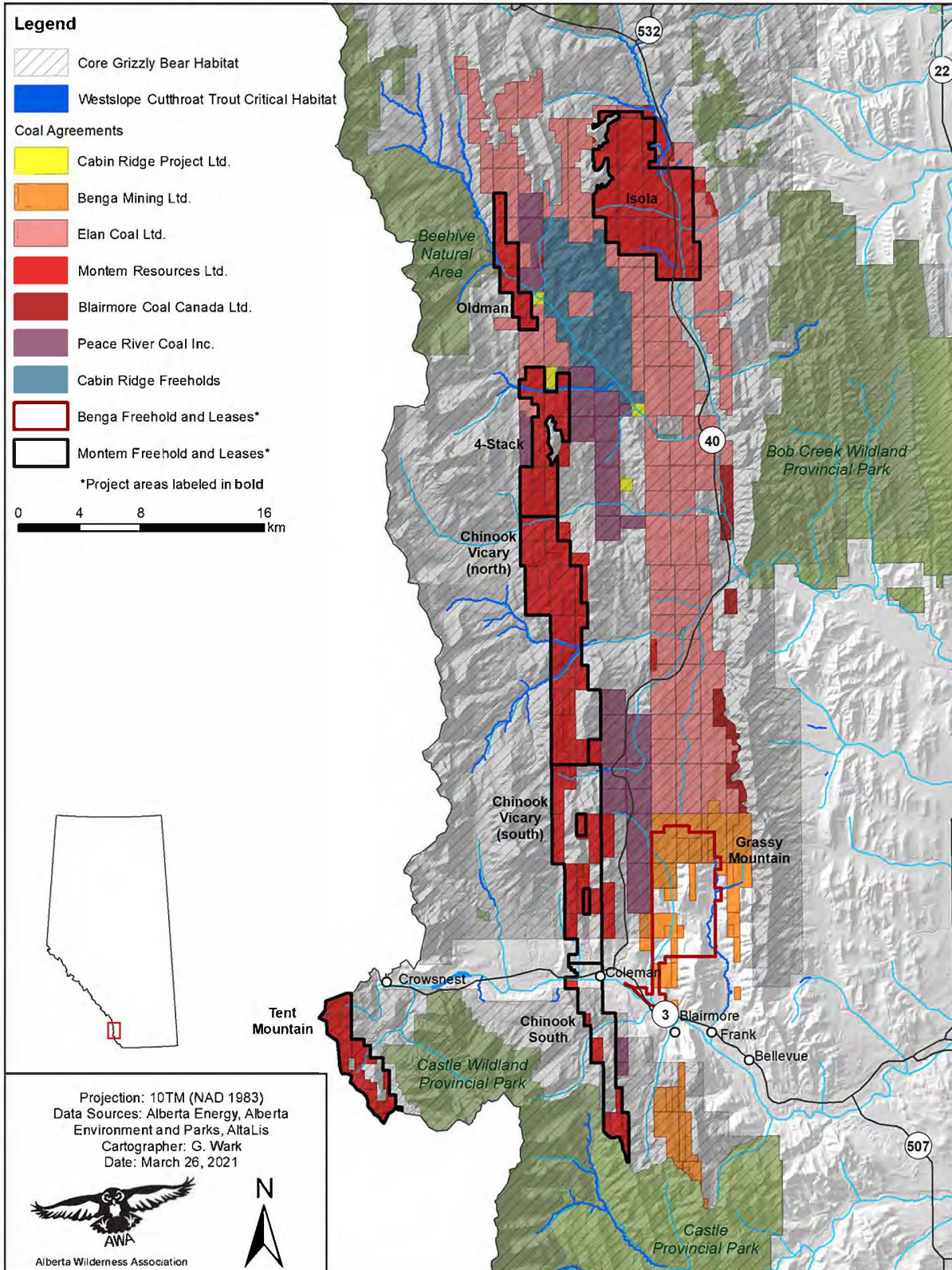
Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Michelle Rempel Garner, M.P., Calgary Nose Hill Michelle.Rempel@parl.gc.ca

Charlie Angus, M.P., Timmins-James Bay Charlie.Angus@parl.gc.ca

Heather McPherson, M.P., Edmonton Strathcona Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca

Appendix One: Montem's Coal Leases (labeled), Grassy Mtn, & other coal leases in southwest Alberta, and species at risk habitat





Dedicated to the conservation of wilderness and completion of a protected areas network, AWA inspires communities to care for Alberta's wild spaces through awareness and action.

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