

9th May, 2025.

Dear Ministers Loewen, Jean and Shulz,

I'm asking you to do the right thing with regards to the proposed huge expansion of the Vista coal mine, the fate of which is now in the hands of the Alberta Energy Regulator, (AER).

At the moment, we do not know how thorough the review will be, nor whether there will be public involvement. If the AER decides to do the review in haste with little or no input from anyone other than the mine owners, its decision could threaten Indigenous rights, the fate of endangered species, water quality and the health of people in the affected area.

There are numerous reasons why this expansion should not be given the green light:

1. Coalspur Mines, the U.S. owner of Vista, has said it would use 5.4 billion litres of water. The company would divert water from McLeod Creek, a critical habitat for rainbow and bull trout, both listed as species at risk. This does not bode well for them.
2. Over the years, Coalspur has failed to manage both its tailings and its emissions. Even its very own application says water from the tailings will seep into McPherson Creek "approximately 11 to 160 years" after wastewater stops flowing. As for the emissions, it's been estimated that, when you take into account the burning of the exported coal, they will be the equivalent of four million cars. Yuck.
3. To add to Coalspur's sorry record, it has not dealt fairly with local businesses. In 2021 it went into creditor protection, owing \$5 million to local people. It was resuscitated the following year in part by avoiding full repayment of its debts.
4. Like many Canadians at this time, I think we should be investing in Canadian industries and keeping the profits inside this country, not enabling U.S.-owned companies like Coalspur treating us as colonial resource. Plus, exporting thermal coal goes against the federal government's pledge to phase out such exports by 2030.

This is a time of heightened economic and climate tensions. Therefore it is extremely foolhardy and of no benefit to Canada for Coalspur to build one of the biggest thermal coal mines in Canadian history on land adjacent to Jasper National Park, one of our great treasures even in its partly burnt state caused by climate change, I should add.

Given these issues, please ensure the Vista AER hearing is open and includes all the facts, not just Coalspur's.

Yours truly,

Susan Scott

403-283-1122