



President

Président

160 Elgin St., 22nd floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

160, rue Elgin, 22^e étage
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

August 26, 2022

Chaogui Ren
Chairman
Centermount Coal Limited

<email address removed>

Chaogui Ren:

On August 24, 2022, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) received your request for an extension to the three-year legislated time limit to provide the required information or studies for the environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) of the Bingay Main Coal Project (the Project).

As per subsection 181(2.1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA), at the proponent's request, the Agency may extend the time limit by any period that is necessary for the proponent to provide the Agency with the required information or studies.

The Agency considers extensions to the legislated time limits of transitional environmental assessments continuing under CEAA 2012 in exceptional circumstances. Given that a new legislated federal assessment process has come into force, the transitional provisions under the IAA are intended for the environmental assessment of projects that can reasonably continue and be completed within or near to the statutory legislated time limit established under the IAA.

Following a review of available information, including the information submitted in your request, the Agency has determined it **will not extend the time limit**. The Agency is of the view that:

- the required information or studies have not sufficiently advanced within the three-year time limit, and the Project is in the early stages of the EA process;

.../2



- you have not demonstrated how you intend to provide the required information or studies within the requested extension in consideration of the challenges and delays experienced since the Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines were issued in 2013 (and updated in 2020); and
- coordination with the provincial environmental assessment process would be best accomplished under the IAA.

As outlined in correspondence of March 16, 2020, December 21, 2020, June 10, 2021, March 14, 2022, and June 6, 2022, in accordance with subsection 181(3) of the IAA, the environmental assessment for the Project under CEAA 2012 **will be terminated** after August 28, 2022, if the required information or studies have not been provided. If this is the case, a notice informing the public of the termination will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry.

If the environmental assessment is terminated, in accordance with subsection 7(1) of the IAA, proponents of a designated project are prohibited from carrying out any act related to the project that may cause one of the effects listed therein. If the proponent wishes to continue with the project after the termination of the assessment, it must submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency in accordance with section 10 of the IAA. Further information on the IAA is available on the Agency's website at www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency.html.

Please note that your time limit extension request has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry and this letter will also be posted shortly.

If you have any questions, you may contact Regina Wright, Regional Director, Pacific and Yukon, by telephone at <contact information removed> or by email at

<email address removed>

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)