

# Addendum A

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## Summary of Impacts to Current and Future Generations

Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project  
Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate /  
Environmental Impact Statement

# Table of Contents

A.	Summary of Impacts to Current and Future Generations	A-1
A.1	Introduction .....	A-1
A.2	Economy and Society .....	A-2
A.3	Environment and Culture .....	A-3
A.4	Conclusions .....	A-4
A.5	References .....	A-5

# A. Summary of Impacts to Current and Future Generations

## A.1 Introduction

The Current and Future Generations chapter is intended to meet the requirement outlined in *Section 25(2)(f)* of the BC Environmental Assessment Act. This chapter provides a synthesis of the Project effects, with a focus on how those effects are distributed over time and across different sub-populations. It incorporates a sustainable development approach that considers how development can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland, 1987). Negative and positive impacts associated with the Project are considered in taking this approach, including management of those effects, with an assessment of the Project in terms of its contribution to the overall well-being of British Columbians.

The assessment of Project effects relies on engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities, as well as non-Indigenous stakeholders and a combination of technical/scientific knowledge, Indigenous knowledge, and local community knowledge. At the time of the submission of this Application/EIS however, with the exception of Tsut'ina Nation, the potentially impacted Indigenous Communities have yet to provide a Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use study for the Project. While Traditional Knowledge presented in available secondary source information has been considered, Project specific Indigenous Knowledge is limited in the Application/EIS. NWP continues to request this information from the identified Indigenous Communities that have expressed an interest in the project.

The Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project is a 19 year Project, including 2 years of construction, 15 years of operation, and 2 years of reclamation and closure. However, the assessment of effects to current and future generations presented also attempts to consider the Project effects and benefits beyond the life of the Project, that is, post-closure and with a mind towards future generations, and the legacy that the

Project could leave to them. This analysis is also undertaken in the context of British Columbia's economic frameworks and plans, with attention to where the Project aligns with these frameworks and plans.

## A.2 Economy and Society

Considering that the life of the Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project including construction, operations and closure is 19 years, positive and negative impacts of the project are expected to be focused on the current generation. The project is expected to result in economic growth to the Elk Valley region, as well as being an important source of revenue for different levels of government. Over time and beyond the life of the Project, this revenue may support different types of social, economic, health, and environmental investments locally, regionally, and provincially.

The Project is most likely to economically benefit those already in the workforce, as well as those about to enter the workforce based on the expected Project lifespan. Hundreds of direct and indirect employment opportunities will be available, mostly to a local workforce and regional goods and services industry, and primarily during construction and operations. Those who can benefit from employment in the Project will likely be and those already residing locally and employed in the mining sector, given that housing availability and costs may prevent or limit those living beyond commuting distance from taking up employment in the region's mining sector. Lack of affordable housing, particularly rental housing, has been identified as a major problem for businesses to attract and retain employees in the Elk Valley Region (Elk Valley Economic Initiative, 2023).

While mining in Canada had the Elk Valley has largely employed and benefited white males, changes are being made in the mining sector, with more diversification in the work force taking place.<sup>1</sup> While employment opportunities for the Project are available, members of Indigenous communities still face additional barriers associated with lack of training or education and racism in the workplace. Benefit enhancements put forward by NWP such as on the job training and a co-op program for Indigenous youth could help to reduce lack of training as a barrier (see Chapter 17). Inclusivity and diversity training for managers and supervisors, as well as mentorship and encouraging the reporting of racism to leadership that NWP has put forward (see Chapter 17) may help to reduce racism in the workplace, and improve the attractiveness of mining as an employment option for Indigenous peoples. Revenue may also be available to Indigenous communities from mining through Impact Benefit Agreements and/or other forms of commercial participation in projects.

According to some of the Indigenous participants interviewed for the GBA+ study (see Section 18.4.4.7, Chapter 18), many Indigenous members residing in their communities or other towns outside of the Elk Valley region may not be able to benefit from employment in mining due to lack of housing availability and affordability. In addition, those eligible for only entry level positions and living beyond commuting distance of the Project, such as youth, may also be unable to benefit from employment opportunities. Barrier reduction measures such as provision of resources to support Indigenous employees' affordable

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<sup>1</sup> For example, from 1996-2011, female participation in mining grew by 70%, though women still accounted for only 17% of the mining workforce (Mining Industry Human Resources Council, 2015 based on Canadian census data). The past decade has also shown this growth of female participation to have slowed (LePan, 2023). The mining industry is also the largest private sector employer of Indigenous peoples in Canada (Mining Industry Human Resources Council, 2021), and in 2016 Indigenous peoples represented 7% of the mining workforce in Canada compared to 5% in 2011 Mining (Marshall, 2021 based on Canadian census data).

housing search and provision of a housing wage subsidy to Indigenous employees as identified in Section 18.5.4.1, Chapter 18 could help to reduce housing barriers.

In addition, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, and particularly single mothers, may not be able to benefit as much from potential employment in the Project due to shift work schedules and very limited daycare options in the region. Though again, measures such as supporting and subsidizing local childcare providers and the Elk Valley region in providing 24 hour childcare for shift workers (see Section 18.5.4.1 in Chapter 18) could help to enable mothers, and particularly single mothers, to gain employment in the Project.

Post-closure, there will likely be continued opportunities for employment in mining in the region. With benefit enhancement measures in place, including active recruitment in communities and on the job training such as those identified in Chapter 17, Indigenous peoples may continue to secure jobs in the mining sector, including higher level positions if the Project facilitates the building of skills and knowledge in the mining sector amongst Indigenous peoples, including Indigenous youth. Indigenous youth could represent a significant potential workforce in the region post-closure, especially as the Indigenous population may grow at a much faster rate than the non-Indigenous population, and with a younger population profile. This is based on existing trends where between 2006 and 2016, the Indigenous population increased by 37.5% in the Regional District of East Kootenay and the median age for Indigenous peoples in the Regional District of East Kootenay was lower than the median age for non-Indigenous people in 2016 (see Section 18.4.2.1.1, Chapter 18). These statistics reflect a similar trend occurring nationally (Statistics Canada, 2022). The overall population growth in the Regional District of East Kootenay from 2019-2028 is also expected to be small, with much of that growth attributed to those in older age groups (i.e. over 65) who will be retiring (see Section 18.4.2.1.1, Chapter 18). This scenario will likely lead to a greater need for both more Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to fill a labour gap in the mining industry in the region.

The Project closely aligns with BC sustainable development goals as outlined in the BC Economic Plan 2019-2020. The Project is expected to provide employment opportunities and government revenues that can be redistributed to public services. Providing training, especially to Indigenous youth in the trades will also help the Project to align with BC sustainable development goals and reduce barriers to Indigenous workforce participation and employment.

## A.3 Environment and Culture

The majority of potential environmental impacts from the Project are likely to affect a single generation, based on the expected 20 year lifespan of the Project including the closure period. The Project will result in a loss of land, including lands used for recreational hunting and motorized and non-motorized recreation. With reclamation and closure planning, however, it is expected that the area will be useable again for many recreation activities (see Chapter 19).

Certain activities such as a section of West Alexander Creek would be adversely impacted and not be reclaimable over time, with Westslope Cutthroat Trout particularly affected (see Chapter 12). Based on information received to date, we are not aware if the section of the creek to be removed is used for fishing. Westslope Cutthroat Trout are a species of importance to Indigenous communities though, with

access to healthy aquatic systems for fishing as critical for Indigenous communities (see Chapter 23 to Chapter 31). Again, however, it is not known if Indigenous peoples use the impacted area for fishing, or other areas downstream that may be affected by this loss of fish habitat, but it is recognized that this species is highly valued. It is noted that there will be offset/habitat compensation measures put in place, which may provide new opportunities for fishing in other areas, and which could help to mitigate the loss of habitat. Though an offsetting approach may not be considered adequate from an Indigenous worldview.

Due to the limited number of Project specific Indigenous knowledge/Traditional Land Use studies being made available to the proponent, it is not clear if Indigenous communities use the Project footprint area for traditional activities such as hunting or gathering or if there are other cultural uses associated with the area such as the presence of sacred sites or burial grounds that could be impacted by the Project. Many Indigenous Nations and communities have put forth their commitments and responsibilities to the area, to their traditional territories, and to the protection of future generations (see Chapter 23 to Chapter 31). Indigenous communities have the opportunity to participate in a Reclamation Planning Committee for the Project, which uses adaptive management approaches and an Indigenous Impact Management Plan to follow up and monitoring and which would enable their voices, values, and knowledge for reclamation and the protection of lands and waters for future generations to help drive the reclamation planning process. This initiative reflects the B.C. Government's call through their 2019-2020 Economic Plan for Indigenous stewardship and monitoring initiatives to enhance environmental performance and increase Indigenous involvement in environmental monitoring at mineral exploration and mining. However, reclamation does not mean that the environment would return to its pre-development state, which may be of concern to Indigenous peoples with regard to potential impacts on their Indigenous rights.

## A.4 Conclusions

As with all impact assessments for large projects, there is a certain degree of uncertainty associated with trying to predict the longer term impacts and benefits of the Project, especially when considering all the various indeterminate factors that interact with the Project, and that extend beyond the Project, to shape future outcomes in the region. Overall, however, based on the Project's contributions to the economy at multiple scales, as well as mitigation measures and benefit enhancement measures to be implemented and limited foreseeable adverse residual environmental effects, it is expected that the Project will be overall positive for the Elk Valley region.

Through this Project, NWP can help set the stage for current and future generations to benefit from mining in the region, including those who have not typically been able to take advantage of mining benefits, or who may be less likely to benefit from mining in the future due to structural as well as historical and ongoing colonial barriers in place. Given mining's importance to the region, and NWP's aims to reduce barriers and provide greater distribution of benefits that may have positive impacts for current and possibly future generations, as well as planned reclamation of the environment and alignment with the Provincial Economic Plan, this Project can make a positive contribution to the lives of current and future generations in the Elk Valley region.

## A.5 References

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