

From: J Yanota <email address removed>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 3:47 PM
To: Grassy Mountain (CEAA/ACEE) <ceaa.grassymountain.acee@canada.ca>
Subject: Re: Grassy Mountain Project

For consideration during evaluation of the Grassy Mountain Coal Mine Project application.

My name is John Yanota. I am 63 years old and grew up in the Blairmore, AB (Crowsnest Pass). I moved to Calgary for 40 years and returned to the Pass in 2012. I love the Crowsnest Pass primarily because of the sense of community and the access to outdoors. My parents lived here the majority of their lives (since the 1920's). I have a deep attachment and admiration for this area and wish to see the Pass be prosperous and the environment cared for in a sustainable way.

Everything that I have learned about the proposal for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project has convinced me that the people of the Pass will have a more prosperous future and during the next 25 years+ will see the lands and streams in the area properly protected. In addition and as an added bonus, the majority of the workings from previous mining at Grassy Mountain will be restored to a condition that would not otherwise be possible.

This area has always been a mining community. Today, over 400 people that live here travel to the Sparwood, BC area to work each day. It's very simple. The majority of the people in the Pass rely on mining either directly by working for the mines or indirectly, working to support the people and businesses that work with/for the mines. The local mines produce metallurgical coal, coal that is used by the production of iron ore. There is no other way to economically replace the use of met coal for the production of steel from iron ore, steel being a component of almost everything we use every single day, cars, farming equipment, factories, appliances, tools, buildings, furniture, medical equipment, power generation, windmills, solar panels and more. Just look for something that does not contain steel. Steel is absolutely essential to the lifestyle we are accustomed to.

The Grassy Mountain project is a continuation of a project that was abandoned in the 60s. The workings have remained in their current state (no rehabilitation) and will remain in that state forever unless a commercial interest takes on the rehabilitation of those lands. It is clear and there is no rumours or facts indicating that any level of government would take over the reclamation of those workings. Benga Mining and Riversdale have in their plans and within their application the commitment to rehabilitate the old Grassy Mountain workings. We also have several more abandoned open pit mines in the area that are not and will never be rehabilitated unless a commercial interest becomes involved as part of their "mine reopening and reclamation plans".

I am confident that the regulations that have evolved over the last 125 years of mining are at a level that ensure the environment is respected and protected and that how mining is undertaken today has the least negative effect on the environment and community of any period in that 125 years. Grassy Mountain at it's design capacity will produce about 4M tons of met coal. 30 kilometres further west we have mining facilities producing over 26M tons of met coal. All this coal is exported. I reiterate, met coal is the fuel that makes production of steel economically possible. If Alberta and Canadian met coal is not burned it will be coal from some other area of the world, with far less stringent environmental standards that will be mined and burned.

I am on the Board of the Crowsnest Pass Golf course. The mine desires to acquire some of the golf course land for the rail load out in exchange for replacement of course land and buildings developed in a way that will be an improved asset for the community. Prior, as the Board evaluated whether to enter into negotiations with the mining company the board (including discussions with members), as a group met with representatives of Municipal Council. The Board was not wanting to proceed in a direction that did not have overwhelming support of Council and the citizens of the municipality. Beyond speaking to Council I have attended most of the public information sessions over the past 5 years I've witnessed the support for re-opening of the mine go from 50/50 in the beginning to what I now think is now 80-90% in favor of the mine proceeding. The golf course board, golf course members and local golfers, Municipal Council (representing the Pass citizens) and the vast majority of people we've talked to all agree that re-opening of Grassy Mountain would be very an asset to the community is so many ways.

I returned "home" to the Pass after being in the Calgary for 40 years. I am an avid outdoors person and want to see my mountains, hills, valleys and streams healthy and capable to support an abundance of wildlife and forever be used sustainably by people. I am confident, under the current regulatory regimes that the protective systems and community will ensure the lands around my home are well respected and protected.

Lastly,

My support therefore, is in favor of allowing the mine to proceed as proposed thereby enabling the Crowsnest Pass community to be the vibrant, prosperous and sustainable mountain community that it has been struggling to become.

Respectfully,

John (Jay) Yanota
Coleman, AB