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Studies confirm steel-making coal

Coal quality studies have confirmed at least 80% of the coal to be produced from the proposed Raven Project is suitable for steel-making. According to studies completed by Pincock Allen & Holt, the project area contains metallurgical coal that can be sold for steel production.

“These results confirm our earlier findings,” said Principal Mining Engineer Peter Christensen. “We will now begin to plan the mine design around the production of steel-making coal.”

Steel is essential to the production of food, delivery of clean water and provision of housing and transportation. It is a primary ingredient in many renewable or energy efficient technologies such as windmills or hybrid cars. Homes, businesses, vehicles, recreation and industry all require steel.

The Raven Underground Coal Project

The Raven Underground Coal Project proposes to remove the metallurgical or “steel-making” coal for exports to steel-making markets in Japan and South Korea.

The proposed project is located on mainly private land approximately six kilometres west of the Buckley Bay Ferry terminal and includes about 200 hectares of surface facilities. The proposed mine site is located in a valley behind a ridge to reduce noise and visual impacts.

As a result of community input, the project has situated the proposed mine site in a valley behind a ridge to reduce noise and visual impacts.

A smaller surface footprint

Underground mining has a much smaller surface footprint than surface (open-pit and mountain-top) mining. The Raven Underground Coal Project proposes a 200 hectare mine site, which would house all mine buildings and facilities, and up to a 3100 hectare underground area.

The underground area would be mined using a process called Room and Pillar mining, which means coal deposits are mined by cutting a network of rooms into the coal seam. There would be no perceivable effect on the surface area.

Land reclamation is a requirement of modern day mining. At every step of the mining process, from exploration to decommissioning, environmental regulations require that the land is returned to a productive state.



Mining today is very different

Today’s mining methods are very different from the old days. Modern mining uses new technologies and focuses on environmental responsibility. Like other industries, mining is highly regulated from an environmental and safety perspective.

The Raven Project is committed to designing and developing a project that is socially and environmentally responsible and will leave a positive economic and social impact on the Comox Valley.

What about dust?

There is little potential for dust generation. On-site coal stockpiles will be minimized and will contain moisture that assists in eliminating dust. Transportation trucks will be tarped or covered. The coal stockpile facility at Port Alberni and the conveyor systems will be enclosed.

Air quality will be monitored throughout the project, as part of the project’s ongoing environmental management plan.

Port Alberni selected as preferred transportation option

Port Alberni has emerged as the preferred port option for overseas transport following an initial review of transportation options. This is due to its available facilities, proximity to markets and accessibility by either road or rail. The project considered transporting the coal to one of three ports: Middle Point in Campbell River, Duke Point in Nanaimo, and Port Alberni.

“Identifying a preferred transportation option allows us to make some assumptions that will influence the rest of the planning process,” said Raven Underground Coal Project President and CEO John Tapics. “This is an important step in our preliminary planning process.”

The preferred transportation method is by truck, although transporting coal by rail is still an alternative if the community prefers it and it is cost competitive to trucking. Trucks would be covered and will travel on existing industrial roads, the inland Island Highway (Highway 19) and Highway 4. Further studies are underway to confirm the Port Alberni option best meets the needs of the project.

The Environmental Assessment

The proposed project requires approval under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and from the BC Environmental Assessment Office to proceed.

The federal and provincial reviews of the project are extensive and consider environmental, social, economic, health, and First Nations interests.

The project is in the pre-application stage of the provincial environmental review process and has submitted the project’s draft “Application Information

Requirements” (AIR) to the BC Environmental Assessment Office. The AIR describes the interests the project must address and the studies which will be completed.

Public review and comment is a key part of the review process. The BC Environmental Office will ask the public to comment on the draft AIR this summer.

The Project’s Environmental Assessment status is available online through the Environmental Assessment Office’s website: www.eao.gov.bc.ca



A message from John Tapics, CEO

John Tapics is President and CEO of the Raven Project and a Howe Sound island resident.

Over the last several months, I have met with MLAs, mayors and council, Regional Districts, First Nations, community groups, businesses, and individuals who all have one thing in common. They care passionately about the Comox Valley and Port Alberni.

Whether they are asking me about slope stability, potential dust and noise impacts, ground water implications, transportation issues or telling me how important it is to protect the shellfishery, what I am hearing from people is how much they value their home.

Please watch for more project open houses and opportunities to let us, and the BC Environmental Assessment Office, know your important questions and concerns. Or call or email us directly.

Employment opportunities in a number of areas

The project is committed to training and hiring local people. Mine construction will create jobs for up to 200 people in the local region. Mine and port operations will provide training and employment for about 250 employees in well-paying, full-time positions. The project will create an estimated 300-500 indirect jobs in the local or regional economy.

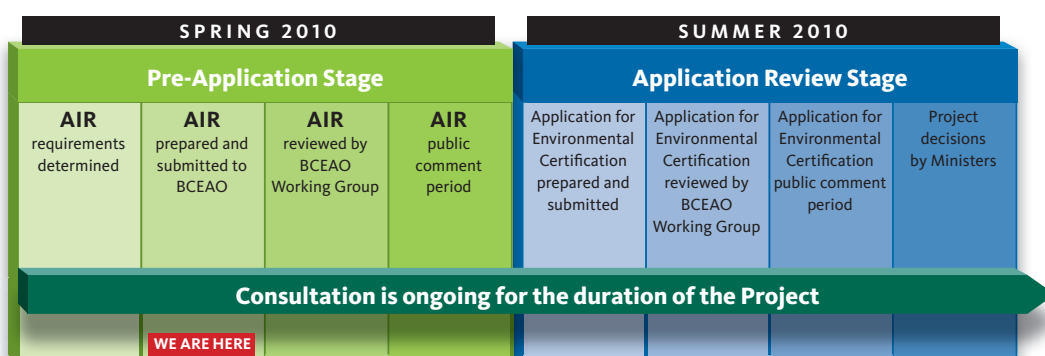


Some employment opportunities include:

- Underground Equipment Operators
- Coal Preparation Plant Operators
- Mechanics/Millwrights
- Electricians
- Production Superintendent
- Underground Mine Supervisors
- Engineering and Environmental Technicians
- Safety Supervisor
- Grader Operators
- Labourers
- Truck Drivers
- Shiploader Operator

Although the proposed project is in the early stages, it has already contributed to the north island economy by contracting local suppliers and equipment.

If you are looking for contractor or employment opportunities, please go to: www.theravenproject.ca



What’s Next

Watch for a Project Open House in the summer and the announcement of the Application Information Requirements public comment period

For more info:

Visit www.theravenproject.ca or call the project office at 250-830-7346.



Compliance Coal CORPORATION
DBA Comox Joint Venture