



Raven Underground Coal Project

-Facts-

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The Raven Underground Coal Project

Studies show there are significant deposits of metallurgical coal within the Comox Valley Regional District on Vancouver Island. This coal has unique properties that make it suitable for making steel.

The Raven Underground Coal Project proposes to remove the metallurgical or “steel-making” coal for export 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. The underground area of the proposed mine would cover up to 3100 hectares and the surface area would cover approximately 200 hectares. The proposed mine site is located in a valley behind a ridge to reduce noise and visual impacts.

The project is in its early stages of research, consultation and preliminary studies. The results of environmental and engineering studies as well as public and First Nations considerations will be incorporated into the design of the project.

The project is committed to working with the community, First Nations and all levels of government to develop a project that is environmentally and socially responsible.

Steel-Making Coal

Steel is made from combining metallurgical or “steel-making” coal with iron ore.

The steel used in homes, businesses, vehicles, recreation and industry is created using “steel-making” coal. Independent studies have confirmed at least 80% of the coal to be produced from the Raven Project is suitable for steel-making.

Preliminary studies show a small amount of the coal produced will not meet steel-making specifications and may be used to produce energy.

Opportunities for Community Input

The Raven Project will meet and go beyond the provincial and federal environmental assessment process requirements for community input.

The project is committed to working closely with environmental organizations, citizens, businesses, First Nations and all levels of government. Opportunities for input will be provided at every stage of the project.

More than 300 people attended an open house hosted by the Raven Project at the Fanny Bay Community Hall in October 2009, three Project Updates have been distributed to Comox Valley and Port Alberni households, the project team has met with community, business, government and First Nations representatives and a public information telephone line and email have been set up.

A local advisory group has been established to provide a community perspective on the project. The advisory group identifies important issues that need to be addressed in project planning and through the environmental review process.

As a result of early consultation with environmental and community interests, the project has moved the proposed mine site to a preferred location six kilometres west of the Buckley Bay Ferry terminal.

More open houses and meetings will be held as the project progresses.

Transportation to Markets

The project has considered transporting the coal to one of three port options: Middle Point in Campbell River, Duke Point in Nanaimo, and Port Alberni. Following the initial review of transportation options, Port Alberni has emerged as the preferred port option due to its available facilities, proximity to markets and accessibility by either road or rail. Further studies are required to confirm this option.

The preferred transportation method is by truck, although transporting coal by rail to Port Alberni is still an alternative if the public prefers it and it is cost competitive to trucking.

Trucks will travel on existing industrial roads, the Inland Island Highway (Highway 19) and Highway 4. On average, between three and four trucks per hour would travel to the Port. This represents a less than two percent increase in vehicle traffic on Highway 19.

The project will continue to research alternative transport routes, including routes from Highway 4 to the Port.

Port Design and Operations

Coal facilities proposed for Port Alberni will be designed, constructed and operated to minimize environmental impacts.

An Environmental Management System, developed with federal agencies including the Port Authority of Port Alberni, will guide Port design and operations. Coal storage and on-site transport will be covered to minimize dust.

The BC Environmental Assessment Process

The proposed project requires approval under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the BC Environmental Office in order to proceed. The provincial environmental review of the proposed project is an extensive process that began in the summer of 2009 and will continue throughout most of 2010. The federal process was announced May 17, 2010.

The proposed Raven Project is currently in the Pre-Application Stage of the BC environmental assessment process. During this stage environmental consultants conduct technical and environmental assessments to identify potential environmental and social impacts.

Public participation in the environmental assessment process helps ensure community values are considered in project planning and decision-making. The BC Environmental Assessment Office will hold two or more public comment periods for the proposed project.

Protecting shellfish, salmon and other aquatic species

Independent environmental consultants are studying fish and aquatic habitat in the Cowie Creek watershed.

Studies underway in the project area include:

- Counting fish and fish species, and mapping their locations
- Continuously measuring and recording water temperatures in Cowie Creek, the unnamed Cowie Creek tributary and Cougar Smith Creek
- Assessing stream flow and aquatic habitat in Cowie Creek
- Assessing water quality by analyzing the small species that live in the creek bottom
- Sampling fish tissue to determine natural background metal concentrations
- Comparing information across spring, summer and winter seasons
- Reviewing existing studies and reports

Building an accurate picture of current conditions is the first step to reducing and eliminating potential environmental impacts. The results of these, and other baseline studies, will be posted to the project website as soon as they are available.

Providing local employment

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. These jobs include electricians, labourers, equipment operators, engineering and environmental technicians, truck drivers, grader operators, mechanics, millwrights and shipload operators.

The project will create an estimated 300 to 500 indirect jobs in the local and regional economy.

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

First Nations Engagement

The project team is committed to working closely with First Nations throughout the life of the project. This includes working together to understand the impact of the proposed project on traditional land use and Aboriginal Rights and Title, identifying training, employment and business opportunities and maximizing participation in the environmental assessment process.

The Comox Joint Venture

The proposed Raven Underground Coal Project is a project of the Comox Joint Venture. The Comox Joint Venture has been created to investigate the possibility of developing the Raven Underground Coal Project on Vancouver Island.

Compliance Coal Corporation, a Canadian resource company with corporate offices located in Vancouver, British Columbia, is the majority partner in the Comox Joint Venture.

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