

## REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE , GRASSY MOUNTAIN COAL PROJECT HEARING

Sent July 17, 2020

### Relevant Information

My name is Jim Rennie. I am a geologist by training and a dedicated flyfisherman. I have collected fishery data in Gold Creek downstream from the proposed Grassy Mountain project on average 2 or 3 times per year over the last 24 years. This is valuable baseline information and consists primarily of catch rate data for cutthroat trout in Gold Creek. Catch rate data can be used by fisheries biologists as an indicator of fish population density. My data was recorded repeatedly over 2 stretches of the creek approximately 1 Km and 0.7 Km in length and is representative of a very high trout population density for a significant length of the creek.

The data spans the July 2015 incident of a coal waste spill into Gold Creek and the before/after data clearly shows the extremely detrimental effect of the spill on the trout population in the 2 stretches of Gold Creek. Additional future spills from disturbance of the existing coal waste piles on the mountain are likely if the coal mining project goes ahead, and I will elaborate on this risk in my submission.

My participation in the hearing will assist the panel in reaching a decision with the benefit of valuable baseline data, the type of data that is often not available for proposed projects. It would be a mistake to make an important decision on land use without considering this baseline data.

I have checked with AWA and CPAWS to make sure I will not be repeating evidence that they propose to submit, and I am sure no one else has complete baseline fisheries data with the detail I will submit.

### Nature and Scope of Participation and Timing

I would like to have full participation in the hearing process in the form of a written submission, and an oral presentation at one of the public hearing locations. Either Crowsnest Pass or Lethbridge AB would work, preferably Lethbridge ,and my timing for availability would be after October 23.

### Directly Affected

I would be directly affected by the Grassy Mountain Coal Project. I have a cabin in Beavermines, which is a short drive from Gold Creek and Grassy Mountain. My wife and I have owned the cabin since 1990 and the reason we keep it is mainly to enjoy fishing in the area. Good fishing for cutthroat trout is becoming rare in Alberta, and any further damage to the trout population in Gold Creek would be a big loss. It would have a negative impact on our enjoyment and value of our property .

I respectfully request to participate in the Grassy Mountain Coal Project hearing.

Sincerely, Jim Rennie.

### Contact Information

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