

19 July, 2020

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Grassy Mountain Project, Ref. 80101
Request to Participate in Hearing

Dear Sirs:

I have previously corresponded with the Panel regarding this project. I stated my reasons for believing that the Grassy Mountain mine could have an effect on myself and my property. I have also filed several letters of concern with the Panel, regarding multiple versions of the proponent's EIA, and specific aspects of the various Addendums.

Now that the Panel has issued a Notice of Hearing, I wish to formally request an opportunity to present to the Hearing. As I have stated in previous correspondence, I am working cooperatively with the Livingstone Landowners Group, and expect to present through them. However, at the present time, I wish to preserve my option to present as an individual should there be a need for that.

As I have stated in my previous letters to the Panel, my wife and I own commercial and residential property in Crowsnest Pass. We thus stand to be impacted by the proposed mine in a variety of ways, ranging from the possible transfer of a water license from the Municipality to the mine to impacts from airborne particulates. As my wife has a chronic lung condition, the particulates pose a potential major impact on her. We also own land fronting on the Crowsnest River, downstream of the proposed mine. That land could be adversely affected by any changes in water flow, or water quality. Finally, we own three quarter sections of land downwind of the proposed mine, and that land could be adversely affected by release of airborne materials from the mine.

I also bring an unusual set of qualifications to the Hearing. I hold a Ph.D. in wildlife biology and an MD, with specialization in family medicine. I practiced rural medicine in Crowsnest Pass for more than a quarter century before retiring last fall.

In anticipation, I thank the Panel for granting me the opportunity to present at the Hearing.

The Notice of Hearing also noted that the public could make suggestions to the Panel on when and where the Hearing should be convened.

I suggest that the Panel may need to wait for some time before finalizing the where, and perhaps make it a question of how to convene a Panel. If the Covid situation continues to be a significant health threat, the Panel may have to be conducted largely electronically. If that is the case, I ask that they also provide a central place where participants and others can access the Hearing. This will be especially important for those who may not have an internet connection, or whose internet may not provide sufficient bandwidth for a Zoom type meeting. Should health issues allow the Panel to conduct a more traditional Hearing, I would prefer that . I like the opportunity to observe testimony directly, without an electronic edit being done on what I can and cannot see.

If it is possible to hold an in-person meeting, I suggest that it be held in Pincher Creek. This is not the closest community to the proposed mine, but it is not far removed. Pincher Creek has better meeting facilities for larger groups than Crowsnest Pass. It also has more choice in accommodations than Crowsnest Pass, which may be important for Hearing Staff and expert witnesses who may be present for a number of days.

The Panel has suggested a Hearing in October. I suggest that a date in November would be more appropriate. Depending on weather, many of the local agriculturists could still be engaged in harvest activities in October. A November date will reduce the risk of a conflict. If circumstances prevent a meeting in November, I suggest that the Hearing be put off until the second half of January. Weather in this area commonly includes significant snowfall in late November through to mid-January. The month after that generally has less chance of heavy snow.

Respectfully,

Allan Garbutt, Ph.D., MD (retired)