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OUR FILE No. 154436 /IMO

YOUR FILE No. 80101

August 26, 2020

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Grassy Mountain Coal Project Joint Review Panel  
c/o Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0H3

**Attention: Tracy Utting, Acting Panel Manager**

Dear Madam:

**Re: Benga Mining Limited/Riversdale Resources - Grassy Mountain Coal Project  
AER Application Nos. 1844520 and 1902073  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Reference No. 80101**

This is the response of the Coalition of Alberta Wilderness Association and the Grassy Mountain Group (the "Coalition") to the three questions posed in the JRP's August 12, 2020 email to Hearing Participants.

**Question 1 - Procedure of the Hearing:**

The Coalition would prefer to have the presentation of evidence and cross-examination be conducted by issue/topics. Some of our expert witnesses have expressed a preference for cross-examination by issue or topic because that way the information provided will be more focussed on the issues relating to that theme and not a mixture of topics. This may also result in a more efficient use of expert witness and counsel time at the hearing. Furthermore It will also make it easier to find and reference evidence related to an issue in transcripts than when the issues are jumbled all over the transcripts.

The Coalition notes that in Benga's letter to the JRP dated August 25, 2020, it has proposed 5 issue/topics areas. Assuming that these 5 topic areas are acceptable to the JRP, we would see the hearing process unfolding as follows. Benga would sit its Water Panel first and we would see examination-in-chief and cross-examination of Benga be completed on that topic. Other Hearing

Participants would then sit their witness panels to address the Water topic. For instance, the Coalition will sit its Water Panel which will include a number of expert witnesses. Examination-in-chief and cross-examination of the Coalition witnesses would then be completed on the Water topic. The same process would be followed for the other 4 issues identified by Benga or defined by the JRP.

**Question 2 - Concerns about electronic hearings:**

The Coalition wants the JRP to make sure that local residents without internet are accommodated. Some type of in person hearing facility in the local community will likely be required to be set up by the JRP so that local residents are able to participate in the Zoom hearing.

**Question 3 - Counsel concerns about electronic hearings:**

The Coalition's counsel wants to have the ability for documents to be shared on the screen during examination-in-chief and cross-examination. This document viewing task should be performed by the JRP.

**Further submissions:**

The Coalition has reviewed a draft letter from Mr. Fitch from McLennan Ross, on behalf of the Livingstone Landowner Group dated August 26, 2020 requesting that the JRP grant an extension of the time by which participants other than Benga must file written submissions, from September 14 to September 28, 2020. The Coalition supports that request for the reasons stated in Mr. Fitch's letter.

Yours truly,

**ACKROYD LLP**

*Original signed by*

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