



October 5, 2020

Joint Review Panel (JRP)
Panel Secretariat
Grassy Mountain Coal Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
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Stoney Consultation Office
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Attention: Joint Review Panel Members

Sent Via Email

Dear Sirs/Madame,

RE: Stoney Nakoda Nations' Request to Participate in the JRP Hearings on the Grassy Mountain Coal Project

The Stoney Nakoda Nations ("Stoney Nakoda") are writing to the JRP members to request participation in the upcoming hearings for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.

The Stoney Nakoda are comprised of the Bearspaw First Nation, Chiniki First Nation and Wesley First Nation, whose reserve lands are, namely: Morley Indian Reserves 142, 143, 144, undivided; Rabbit Lake Indian Reserve 142B; Bighorn Indian Reserve 144A; and Eden Valley Indian Reserve 216.

The Stoney Nakoda were signatories to Treaty No. 7 in 1877. The Stoney Nakoda have unextinguished Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including Aboriginal title, as being claimed in the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, Action No. 0301-19586 (the "Title Claim"). Specifically, the claim seeks compensation from provincial and federal governments arising from breaches of the Stoney Nakoda Aboriginal title and rights over lands located in Alberta. Aboriginal rights and title are claimed over off-reserve surface and subsurface lands and natural resources.

The Chiefs and Councils of the Stoney Nakoda have the authority to protect the collective rights and interests of the Stoney Nakoda as recognized by Treaty 7 and the Natural Resources Transfer Act, 1930, and protected by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 (collectively known as "Section 35 Rights").

Pursuant to the Indian Act and their inherent powers of self-government, the Stoney Tribal Council, is empowered to act on behalf of the Bearspaw, Chiniki and Wesley First Nations, collectively known as the Stoney Nakoda Nations. The Stoney Tribal Council recently entered into a long-term Relationship Agreement with Benga Mining Limited regarding their Grassy Mountain Mining Project. In accordance with this agreement, the Stoney Nakoda Nations supports the project and its related applications on the condition that Benga has and will adequately address our project-specific concerns.

The Stoney Nakoda are interested in presenting at the JRP hearings for the purpose of acknowledging their new long-term relationship with Benga Mining regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Project and to ensure that project proponents and the Joint Review panel will incorporate a rigorous, thorough and non-partisan review process and its assessment that the Grassy Mountain Project can be built in a safe and environmentally-sound manner.



Stoney Nakoda insists on responsible resource and energy development in our area; we will work with the Grassy Mountain Coal Project to ensure the highest environmental standards while providing economic and social opportunities for the citizens of the Stoney Nakoda Nations.

Stoney Nakoda would like to present conditions to the JRP for project approval we feel are necessary for the project to be built and operated in a manner that provides sustainable benefits for our community while protecting the environment.

We hope you will consider and approve our request to present at the upcoming hearings.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Dean Cherkas, P.Ag.
Director, Consultation
Stoney Tribal Administration

Contact Information

Should you have any questions related to this correspondence, please contact Dean Cherkas at the Stoney Consultation Office:

Stoney Tribal Administration

<contact information removed>

Cc: Ryan Robb, Stoney Tribal Administration
William Snow, Stoney Consultation Manager
Dale Swampy, Consultant to Stoney Tribal Administration