
Grassy Mountain Coal Project Joint Review Panel

December 1, 2020

By email only

To: Hearing Participants

Subject: Final argument for the Grassy Mountain Coal Project

The Joint Review Panel (the Panel) established to review the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project (the Project) has considered the submissions from Benga and full participants on the format and timing of final argument. The Panel notes that final argument is an opportunity for the parties to provide to the Panel the summation of their positions, having regard for the relevant evidence and law. Submission of final argument is limited to full hearing participants.

Format and timing of final argument

With respect to format for final arguments, Benga and participants that made submissions all expressed a preference for written final argument, and the Panel supports written final argument.

With respect to timing, the Panel is of the view that final argument should occur in a timely manner. Any deadlines established for submission of final argument for the hearing cannot occur prior to receipt of a hearing report from the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO). The Panel understands that the ACO intends to submit a hearing report shortly after the oral hearing concludes (CIAR #899).

The Panel has established the following schedule for written final argument, pending receipt of the ACO hearing report on, or before, Tuesday December 8, 2020. If the ACO hearing report is not received on, or before, Tuesday December 8, 2020, the Panel may need to consider amending the first deadline to ensure Benga has sufficient time to review the ACO hearing report prior to filing its final argument. Please be advised that the Panel may adjust the schedule as needed.

- Friday December 11, 2020 (4:00 pm MST): Deadline for Benga's written final argument
- Friday January 8, 2021 (4:00 pm MST): Deadline for participant written final argument
- Friday January 15, 2021 (4pm MST): Deadline for Benga's reply argument

Close of the record

The Panel intends to close the hearing on January 15, 2021 at 4:00 pm MST, pending receipt of Benga's reply argument. New information cannot be placed on the record once the hearing is closed. Members of the public will no longer be able to submit comments for the Joint Review Panel's consideration, either through the "submit a comment" button on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry¹, or by email.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, you are encouraged to contact Tracy Utting, Acting Panel Manager at IAAC.GrassyMountain.AEIC@canada.ca.

Yours truly,

<Original signed by>

Alex Bolton
Chair, Joint Review Panel

cc: Martin Ignasiak, Partner, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Mike Bartlett, Senior Project Manager, Millennium EMS Solutions Ltd.
Sarah Nossiter, Senior Legal Counsel, Riversdale Resources

¹ Available online: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80101>