

Grassy Mountain Coal Project Public Hearing Summary

A Joint Review Panel has been established to review the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project and conduct an assessment of the environmental effects of the project. The hearing started on October 27, 2020 and is scheduled to last until November 30, 2020. It is being held online using Zoom and is open to the public via live streaming on YouTube.

Crowsnest Conservation Society (CCS) was approved for standing as a full participant in the hearing. In September, we distributed a survey to all members and supporters to solicit views on the project proposal. The results of the survey and information from previous submissions were used to complete an updated submission to the Joint Review Panel in September.

Rick Cooke presented the CCS Opening Statement to the Joint Review Panel on October 27th. The wide variety of issues to be addressed during the hearing have been divided into seven topic blocks with time allotted for Direct Evidence and Cross Examination. CCS requested time to present Direct Evidence in the section "Purpose of the Project, Socio-Economic Effects, etc." only as well as requested additional time to cross examine other participants in several of the other subject blocks.

On November 4th, our Direct Evidence was presented by a panel of CCS members including Rick Cooke, Heather Davis and Stephanie Duarte-Pedrosa. As Rick said, they represented the past (Rick); the present (Heather) and the future (Stephanie). As part of the feedback received from the community, the results of the June 2020 Municipal Development Plan Survey were included in the presentation as well as the CCS survey results. Our goal was to identify key issues and concerns impacting the community in this topic area and recommend how the panel might address them in their decision on the project. The presentation was very well received and elicited some thoughtful questions and comments. The Power Point presentation and Heather's presentation on Tourism/Recreation are available on the CCS website.

Over the next month, several different groups and individuals will be providing Direct Evidence and cross examining Benga on a wide variety of environmental impacts of this mining project. We will continue to monitor the hearing throughout the month and provide cross examination as appropriate. Closing Remarks are expected to be scheduled in January 2021. The Final Report and Recommendations may not be completed until June 2021.

This is an interesting and comprehensive public hearing that highlights the complexities of the approval process. The participation of CCS in this hearing is very valuable in providing a voice for the community of Crowsnest Pass.

November 9, 2020