



April 16, 2021

Heather McPherson, M.P.  
House of Commons  
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Dear colleague:

Thank you for your March 22, 2021 submission of a "Petition to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change" (No. 432-00681), which calls upon me to: 1) Instruct the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) to conduct a Regional Assessment of the impacts of all proposed coal developments and exploratory activity in Southwest Alberta on Treaty and Aboriginal rights, water quality, species at risk, and the environment; and 2) Delay a decision regarding the Grassy Mountain Coal Mine Project until the cumulative impacts of all mining activity in the region have been adequately considered.

With regard to the first item, please be advised I have instructed the Agency to consider your petition as a formal request for a regional assessment under subsection 97(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), and to commence a review and analysis of it to inform my eventual decision on whether or not to conduct such a regional assessment. Other jurisdictions with responsibilities in the region may be engaged to determine their interest in collaborating on such a regional assessment. Please note that Agency officials may contact you to request additional information related to your request.

Under the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations* established under the IAA, a response to a regional assessment request, with reasons, must be provided within 90 days of its receipt. You will therefore receive notification of my decision by June 18, 2021, at which time it will also be posted publicly to the

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Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, available at [https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency.html?utm\\_campaign=not-applicable&utm\\_medium=vanity-url&utm\\_source=canada-ca\\_iaac](https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency.html?utm_campaign=not-applicable&utm_medium=vanity-url&utm_source=canada-ca_iaac). Further questions regarding your request for a regional assessment can be directed to Dr. Steve Bonnell, Manager - Strategic and Regional Assessments, by email at [Stephen.Bonnell@canada.ca](mailto:Stephen.Bonnell@canada.ca) or by telephone at <personal information removed>.

Finally, please note that a formal response to your petition, addressing both of the issues and requests included therein, will be forthcoming in accordance with the procedures and timelines for responding to parliamentary petitions by the Government of Canada.

Sincerely,

**<original signed by>**

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.